

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Fans cheer Kansas City rapper at sold out show

RAPPER TECH N9NE performs in front of his latest album's logo Sept. 5 at the Performing Arts Center. The concert, put on by the Student Activities Council, was sold out.



photo by jarod clark | convergence editor

By Katie Luers
Chief Reporter

When Tech N9ne stopped at Northwest between tours he didn't expect the reaction he received.

The concert last Friday night was packed with students yelling out "K-C MO". By the time the show began at 7:30, the crowd was standing and yelling, full of energy for the show.

"When I stepped out on that stage, and I saw everybody stand up, and cheer for me, and it stayed like that from beginning to end. It was just so smooth, and the love was

there all the way," Tech N9ne said. "I can't wait to come back."

Northwest students showed as much enthusiasm about the show.

"I'm here because it's Tech N9ne!" senior Kyle Hopkins said.

After following Tech N9ne for quite a while, it was the first time Hopkins attended a Tech N9ne concert.

Student Karly Haines from Kansas City expected the concert to be loud and chaotic.

For Tech N9ne, the concert represented completing a goal. It gave him the opportunity to reach people of many different ages and ethnicities

in one concert.

Tech N9ne's goal is to reach out to the entire world, so it was encouraging for him to see such diversity at a concert, he said.

Diversity is not the only thing Tech N9ne looks for in a concert. His music is a continuation of himself and he wants to share his experiences through his music and performance, he said.

The best way to describe his music is "schizophrenic", Tech N9ne said.

One way Tech N9ne shares his experiences is through a mask that is painted onto his face for every

concert with a different word on the forehead. The mask comes from his early fear of clowns that became an infatuation for him.

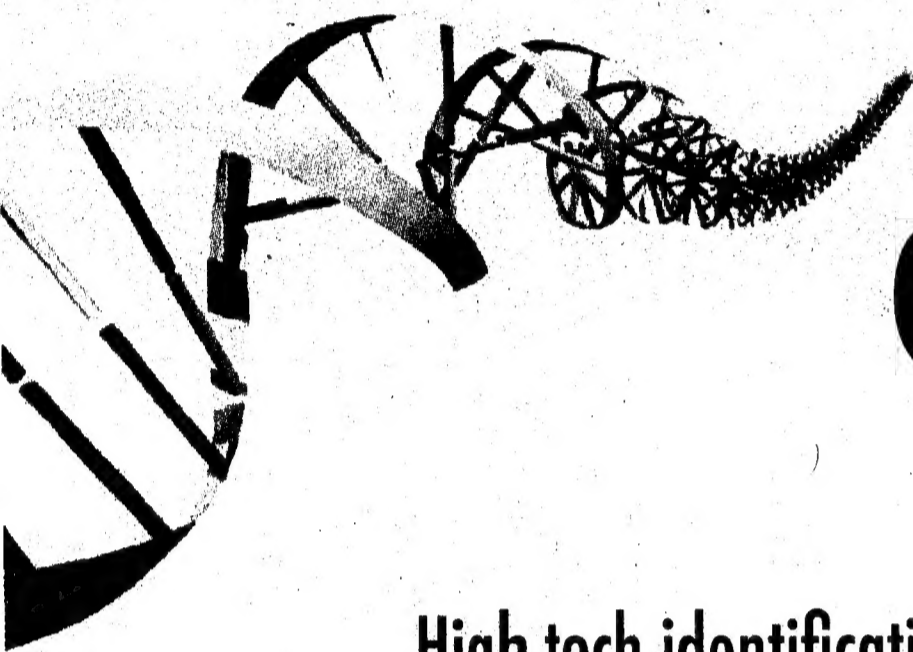
"I became what I feared so much, because I admired the mystique," Tech N9ne said.

The words across the forehead of the mask represent whatever Tech N9ne feels at the moment that it is being painted.

For the Northwest concert, the mask read 'real,' the way Tech N9ne felt in Maryville.

"I can't wait to come back," Tech N9ne said. "We were talking about it for two days after."

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



One mugshot One fingerprint One saved life

High-tech identification program captures crucial genetic and physical information to benefit Amber Alert system

By Chris Lee
Community News Editor

AMBER ALERT, brings a new meaning to Maryville this weekend.

The Missouri Masonic Children's Foundation and sixth Masonic District of Atchison and Nodaway Counties are sponsoring the Missouri Child Identification Program (MOCHIP).

David Baird, Nodaway County Prosecuting Attorney said the program has provided the service to more than 50,000 children in Missouri so far. The process takes anywhere from 15 minutes to an hour depending on how many people show up.

This year the program is targeting high school to early college female students, Baird said.

The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Maryville Community Center located at 1407 N. Country Club Road. All services will be free to all participants.

The information the family or student receives at the end of the process is burned onto a mini-CD that is compatible with the AMBER ALERT system. If an incident arises, the CD should be given to authorities for immediate release into the system.

The information used is comprised of the participant's digital photograph, digital fingerprints, vital child infor-

mation and emergency contacts, a dental bite impression and two laminated identification cards.

"If an incident arises, the information needs to be taken to the cops," Baird said.

Information gathered from the program is erased from the databanks that day. The person using the program takes everything with them, Baird said.

"You walk away with everything," Baird said. "The only thing that we keep is a release form saying that you voluntarily came in and did this."

Multiple tables will be available to help with the flow of crowds.

The participant should take the packet back to their residence and let roommates know where it is, Baird said. Another option would be to give it to their parents, even if they live far away. If an incident arises, a nationwide alert is set in place. Any law enforcement agency can take the disc and turn it into the system.

This is the third year the program is offered in the area.

Officials issued the packets to roughly over 400 children during the first year, Baird said.

"This is the first year that we've really targeted young people, high school and college age," Baird said. "Statistics are telling us that it is the second biggest group."

About every three or four years the program should be updated. If the disc is kept, the process will go faster

because the fingerprints and DNA won't change. The photograph and bite marks only need to be updated.

The fingerprints aren't the old style of ink fingerprints.

Everything is done electronically, Baird said.



FINANCIAL AID

Discount makes student veteran aid more accessible

By Katie Luers
Chief Reporter

This trimester it became easier for veterans to continue their college education.

The new Missouri Returning Heroes' Education Act gives additional financial assistance to returning veterans by reducing tuition rates.

Senior James Johnson, 30, chose to continue his education after serving eight years in the Marine Corps.

Recently married and in his final year, Johnson will earn his degree with the help of this new act.

In addition to the G.I. Bill and other veteran benefits, the Returning Hero's Act lowers the tuition rates to \$50 per credit hour. This rate applies to veterans who have served in combat after Sept. 11, 2001.

At first he was skeptical about the act, because of the financial burden on the University, but it has been implemented excellently, Johnson said.

The tuition cap in the act helps to bridge the gap of what the G.I. Bill does not cover.

"Missouri's veteran's benefits were very, very poor before this act," Johnson said. "It's safe to say (in the past) you could place Missouri in the bottom few states as far as education benefits for veterans."

The Financial Assistance and Scholarship Office is responsible for calculating financial benefits for each student. When eligible veterans apply, the office first calculates all of their regular financial assistance.

The office then subtracts from the tuition any grants or scholarships the student received. These include the Pell Grant, Bright Flight, a scholarship program for Missouri high school students continuing their education in Missouri and G.I. Bill benefits.

The school then takes this amount and under the new act, pays for the difference between the reduced tuition rate and the \$50 per credit hour.

"This is the first time the state has really stepped in," Financial Assistance Director Del Morley said.

Missouri requires each state university and college to implement the act this fall or next spring.

However, the state of Missouri does not fund this act. Each school is responsible for finding the resources to provide for its veterans.

Northwest chose to implement the "Returning Heroes' Act" this fall, and uses scholarship budgeting to fund the program.

"I don't see it having a huge effect on the budget overall," Morley said.

As the President of the Northwest Student Veterans Association, it is Johnson's job to be concerned about the veteran students.

"When you combine the G.I. Bill with the Missouri Returning Heroes' Education Act, it gives every veteran in the state of Missouri a real legitimate chance to get a college degree," Johnson said.

This act makes Missouri more competitive with veteran benefits, Johnson said.

Many veterans choose to serve, and when they come back they don't have the money for a college education, Johnson said.

The act gives the veterans a choice for an education other than working an hourly wage job.

"Some of them want to get a college degree, and now they're able to," Johnson said.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Northwest opposes drinking age initiative

By Evan Young
Editor in Chief

An effort to consider lowering the national minimum drinking age has piqued the interest of more than 100 colleges and universities - minus Northwest.

The Amethyst Initiative, launched in July by former Middlebury (Vt.) University President John McCordell, is a petition of college presidents and chancellors to get elected officials to rethink - and possibly lower - the current drinking age of 21.

As of press time, the petition boasts 130 signatures, some from presidents of well-known institutions like Duke University, Ohio State University and Johns Hopkins University.

One noticeable absence is Northwest President Dean Hubbard.

"I just don't think there's a chance that it will happen, in spite of what my colleagues are pushing for," Hubbard said. "I've not heard of one state legislature that says 'Wow, not a bad idea.' It won't happen."

Passed in 1984, the National Minimum Drinking Age Act used a 10 percent federal highway fund cut to persuade states that hadn't upped their drinking age to 21 to do so.

Missouri's drinking age has always been 21.

Raising the national drinking age did little to keep minors from consuming alcohol; rather, it has promoted a covert, off-campus, "binge drinking" culture, the initiative argues.

Lowering the age, possibly to 18, would curb excessive drinking habits by enabling campuses to focus on what and how much students drink and not who legally can or can't, supporters say.

"The current law has not prevented alcohol from being available, and drinking is widespread at all American colleges, and at younger ages as well," Duke University President Richard Brodhead said in a statement through Amethyst. "But at colleges and universities, the law does have other effects: it pushes drinking into hiding, heightening its risks ... and it prevents us from addressing drinking with students as an issue of responsible choice."

Opponents of the initiative, such as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) cite research that indicates the current law has saved thousands of lives from drunk driving accidents and alcohol poisoning.

Lowering the age, opponents say, wouldn't help prevent excessive drinking; it would only make it legal for the minors who do it now.

For Northwest, student binge drinking is a top concern, regardless of age, officials say. But would updating the NMDA Act lead to

What is binge drinking?

• Binge drinking is a pattern of drinking that when men consume five or more drinks, and when women consume four or more drinks, in about two hours.

• Fifty-one percent of binge drinkers are between 18 and 20 years old.

• Ninety percent of the alcohol consumed by minors is in the form of binge drinks.

• Each year, drinking by college students, ages 18-24, contributes to an estimated 1,700 student deaths and nearly 600,000 injuries.

(Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, Mothers Against Drunk Driving)

a decrease in student binge drinking?

"It doesn't make any sense to me. That's like saying the solution to methamphetamine abuse would be to just make it legal," Hubbard said. "Well if the only person that gets hurt through the use of drugs is the drug user, then you could say that solution makes sense."

"But ... the drug user is more likely to hurt other people as a result of their addiction. So it's not quite as simple as saying 'Let's just open the gates and let everyone participate.'"

What seems to be missing from the initiative's argument is the research that links the drinking age with excessive drinking, Vice President of Student Affairs Jackie Elliot said.

"Can you show me the data or statistics that prove lowering the drinking age to 18 would reduce binge drinking? If you can prove (that) ... then we would certainly reconsider our stance," Elliot said.

Twenty years ago, binge drinking was all but unheard of, because students preferred beer to hard alcohol, which is more conducive to alcohol poisoning, Elliot said. However, liquor

companies "wised up," and today, with tastier mixed drinks on the market, students tend to be unaware of how much hard alcohol they consume until it's too late.

"The thing that keeps college administrators up at night is getting that phone call that one of our students is in the hospital for alcohol poisoning. Lowering the drinking age ... is not going to stop me from getting those phone calls," Elliot said.

What helps is proper education, Elliot said. Regardless of what age society thinks children become adults, higher education's goal should be to give students the tools they need to make smart, informed decisions about alcohol consumption, she said.

"We're not saying 'don't drink,' we're saying 'know your body, know your limits,'" she said. "It takes a lot more energy to educate than to sign a document saying 'lower the drinking age to 18.'"

So what do students think? Student Senate President Abby Freeman was surprised to hear that several senators oppose the initiative.

"A lot of the senators are against it," she said. "They just think it would cause more problems and that there are other ways to solve the binge drinking issue."

"I think that students ... relate to that argument of 'You can vote at 18, go fight for your country at 18, but you can't drink.' I do understand their viewpoint, but I don't think the drinking age should be lowered."

CAMPUS BRIEFS

New Valk to open

The official opening of the newly renovated lower level of Valk will be at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday on the lower level of the building.

Students invited to 'explore majors'

Exploring Majors and Minors is 12:30 to 2 p.m. Tuesday, September 23, in the J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom and Boardroom.

Student and faculty representatives from Northwest's departments will answer students' questions.

The event is free and open to all Northwest students and co-sponsored by Advisement Assistance and Career Services.

For more information, call 562-1250 or 562-1695.

CatPAWS voting ends tomorrow

Student Senate is holding elections now through tomorrow.

Students can vote through the NWVote Tab on CatPAWS.

The candidates are: Brent Usary for senior class representative, Jeff Drake for non-traditional representative, Aislinn Johnson, Allison Walter, Doug Porter and Justin Ainsworth for off-campus representative, Rachel Rittman, Lindsey Graves, Joseph Barbosa, Kala Roberts, Danielle Macara, Tina Struble, Bryce Stoddard, Garrett Gassman and Andrew Maddux for freshman representative, Rachel Rittman, Lindsey Graves, Joseph Barbosa, Danielle Macara, Tina Struble, Bryce Stoddard, Garrett Gassman, Jonathon Wattm-Haug and Andrew Maddux for on campus representative.

ICY LEGACY



ONE OF THE 78 trees damaged in last winter's ice storm, located near the Gaunt House, is cut down and removed by Horticulturist Adam Stone. The pine tree was given a chance to regrow through the summer before being removed this fall.

Photo by Kelley Dempsey / Staff photographer

FAMILY WEEKEND

A guide to festivities

Friday, Sept. 12

Residence Hall Association Fall Fest (late afternoon).

Alumni Awards Banquet, 6 p.m. J.W. Jones Student Union Ballroom, reservations required.

Juggler Mad Chad Taylor and Magician Mike Hammer, 8 p.m., Performing Arts Center (sponsored by the Student Activities Council, Performing Arts Center).

All day: Family Weekend archives display, B.D. Owens Library; all day.

Saturday, Sept. 13

5K Run/Walk/Roll Sponsored by Northwest Athletic Trainers, 6:30 a.m. Lamkin Activity Center circle drive. Race starts at 7 a.m., \$20 entry fee (includes a T-shirt).

Pancake breakfast by Chris Cakes, 8:30-10 a.m. Memorial Bell Tower Lawn, \$4.

Family Fun Fest, Campus Scavenger Hunt, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sorority open house, 9 to 11 a.m., Roberta Hall.

Alumni open house, 9 to 11 a.m., Alumni House.

Bearcat Bookstore open, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., second floor of the J.W. Jones Student Union.

Bearcat Zone Tailgate, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. College Park, meal costs \$6.

Football, Bearcats vs. Missouri Westerns Grifons, 1 p.m., Bearcat Stadium. The Northwest Family of the Year will be recognized at halftime.

Family bowling, 3 to 7 p.m. Bearcat Lane (South Main Street in Maryville), \$2 per game.

All day: fraternity open houses; Family Weekend archives Display at B.D. Owens Library;

Golf at Lake Mozingo (free Round of golf for parent with purchase of a student-priced round).

Saturday night entertainment for families and students: "Get the Price Right," 7 p.m. in Charles Johnson Theater. This game show-like activity is sponsored by the National Panhellenic Conference.

Sunday, Sept. 14

Brunch buffet, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., J.W. Jones Student Union, meal cost is \$7.50.

All day: Family Weekend archives Display at B.D. Owens Library; Lake Mozingo golf (free Round of golf for the parent with the purchase of a student-priced round).

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Broadway star opens this year's Performing Arts Series

Shane Sherwood
Senior Reporter

"Rent" meets classic rock when Broadway comes to Northwest tonight.

Adam Pascal will perform "Broadway State of Mind," a show that includes many Broadway show tunes and some classic rock songs, at the Performing Arts Center as part of the Encore Series at the University.

Encore House Manager Wesley Miller wants the Encore Series to be big this year.

"The Northwest Encore Series wanted to begin with a bang," Miller said. "We thought Adam Pascal would be the right one to start off the year."

The reason Pascal was chosen was because of his musical talents and his lead-

ing role on the Broadway and film versions of "Rent."

"The Encore staff is excited to bring Adam because we think the Northwest community, students, faculty and the season ticket holders will enjoy their time listening to Adam and his band while they perform familiar songs everyone will enjoy," Miller said.

Student Brooke O'Donnell thinks Pascal coming to campus is a great thing.

"I loved 'Rent,' and I can't wait to see him in person," O'Donnell said. "It should be a very good show."

While O'Donnell mainly knows Pascal from "Rent," she thinks he is a good performer.

"Pascal has a good voice, and if it is anything like he is in 'Rent,' then I know it

won't be a letdown," O'Donnell said.

The Encore Series provides the best fine arts performance to the University, Miller said.

"Our Goal through the Encore Series is to provide an unparalleled experience where the very best artists create and share knowledge through the arts in order to serve the students, Maryville residents, alumni and visitors of Northwest," Miller said.

Valet parking is available this year by the Alternative Spring Break group for a donation, Miller said.

This year Encore season ticket holders will be a part of the Encore festivities.

Pascal has performed in "Rent," "Aida" and "Cabaret." He has made film appearances in "School of Rock" and the film

version of "Rent."

He will perform songs "One Song Glory" from "Rent," "Maybe This Time from "Cabaret" and "New York State of Mind," made famous by Billy Joel.

Pascal will also perform covers made famous by The Beatles, Elton John, Billy Joel and Pink Floyd.

The show begins at 7 p.m. Ticket sales are steady, Miller said. Ticket prices are \$18 for students and \$20 for the public.

Tickets are available either the night of the show at the Performing Arts Center box office, or at the Student Services Desk in the Administration building or by calling 562-1212.

For more information about Adam Pascal, check out this month's edition of P.S.

COMMUNITY

PUBLIC COURTS



POLICE TAPE SEALS off the Mandarin Chinese restaurant on Dec. 3, 2007 after kitchen worker Alejandro Hernandez was killed. Fellow employee Jorge Perez pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter last week in Hernandez's death.

Mandarin suspect gets 12 years for '07 manslaughter

A Maryville man was sentenced to 12 years in prison Sept. 4.

Jorge Perez appeared before the Court for sentencing in connection with his previous plea of guilty to voluntary manslaughter in causing Alejandro Hernandez's death.

Judge Roger Prokes sentenced Perez to 12 years after having previously pled guilty to and admitting his actions intended to cause physical injury to Hernandez which resulted in his death.

After the original plea, Perez faced a maximum of 15 years in



Jorge Perez

prison. The request for probation was denied.

The testimony of the state's key witness was Hernandez initiated the assault at the Mandarin by striking Perez in the stomach, Perez responded by shooting Hernandez.

Perez will serve his time in the Department of Corrections before being eligible for parole. Perez remained in custody of the Nodaway County Sheriff's Department until delivered to the Department of Corrections to serve the penitentiary sentence.

ELECTION 2008

Commissioner candidates face off

Chris Lee
Community News Editor

Bob Westfall of Maryville is up for re-election for Nodaway North District Commissioner.

Westfall was born in Maryville and worked in construction for many years. He said he was always away from home and wanted to stay closer to his roots. His decision to get involved in the Country Commission came as a wish to benefit his community.

Westfall, if re-elected, wishes to continue making the infrastructure better.

"Nodaway County has more bridges and miles of roads than other counties," Westfall said.

He wants to continue to keep the bridges safe to help farmers and rural residents.

"We've had a lot of rain and floods and have received some help from FEMA," Westfall said.

Along with agriculture, Westfall said school and mail routes use the roads and bridges as well, so upkeep is crucial.

As far as family support, Westfall said his family is behind him all the way. His children are Northwest graduates and his grandchildren enjoy coming to town and walking in parades with him.

"It's a family affair," Westfall said.

Bob Stiens, South District Commission

South District Commission candidate Bob Stiens of Ravenwood, always hoped he would make a successful district commissioner. The opportunity came to him just over four years ago.

Stiens was appointed by the governor and in

turn applied. Prior to his commissioner experience, Stiens was a Township Board Member for 19 years.

Stiens hopes to keep his dream alive by getting re-elected for the upcoming term.

During his term as a commissioner, Stiens has worked with the other commissioners to improve the road and bridges within the county.

"We work really well together," Stiens said.

"We agree to disagree when we have to."

Family plays a key role in Stiens life. He has six children, two of which live out of state while the other four live in the area. His wife owns a small business in Maryville while he farms. His farm consists of cattle, corn and soybeans. Stiens said his family supports him fully and that he likes what he does.

"I really enjoy it," Stiens said.

NODAWAY COUNTY

Skull found on 102 River

Katie Luers
Chief Reporter

A Kansas State University anthropologist determined that a skull found on the 102 River is of early American Indian ancestry.

A person found the skull Aug. 19, while searching for arrowheads along the river, Investigator Sgt. Steve Whittington said.

The skull was found one and a half miles north of Barnard on the 102 River.

The person immediately reported the skull to the sheriff's office who responded to the scene.

The skull was immediately sent to a forensic anthropologist for study.

To his knowledge, it is the first time a human skull was found in Nodaway County, Whittington said.

It is almost impossible to know where the skull came from because of flooding on the 102 River, Whittington said.

The county coroner, a Missouri State Patrol officer and anthropologist Mike Finnegan from Kansas State University were all involved in the investigation.

The person who found the skull wishes to remain anonymous.

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OUR VIEW

Avoid procrastination as voter registration deadlines approach

"Schoolhouse Rock" was right, guys; knowledge is power. That's our personal maxim at the Northwest Missourian. We work hard to keep you informed, and we're constantly on the lookout for which current events you want to know more about. When it comes to the election, we aim to give you all the information you need to make an informed decision.

This begins with voter registration. Many students registered to vote in their hometowns. You can choose to switch your registration to the city of Maryville and many factors will affect your decision.

If you happen to miss the deadline to register to vote in Nodaway County, you may be pleased to know that in Missouri you can request and send in your absentee ballot as late as the Wednesday before the general election. For this election, absentee ballots have to be postmarked Oct. 29. Make sure to visit your home state's Web page to find the date in your state.

There are some downsides to voting absentee. It takes time to request the ballot, and most states require a notary's signature. If you choose to switch your registration to Maryville, organizations are ready to assist you.

Getting registered is as easy as stopping by Maryville City Hall and heading to the county clerk's office. Voter registration forms are available at many locations, such as the post office. (Vote will be on the second floor of the Union 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. every day until Friday, Sept. 26. Young Democrats and College Republicans are both holding voter registration drives. The deadline to register to vote in Nodaway County is Oct. 8.

Registering to vote, of course, is only the beginning. Make sure to stay informed on whichever candidate, party or issue has caught your eye. Stop by the Northwest Missourian's Web site, NWmissourianews.com, and check out our new election page. We will have information on voter registration, deadlines, current news from the campaign trail and more.

You don't need us to tell you how important this election will prove. The next president will appoint Supreme Court judges to the bench. The next president or vice president will break either racial or gender boundaries. The issues range from the Iraq war, Social Security, global warming, education and beyond.

We all have a gift, and that gift is seven weeks and five days to learn more, to get more engaged and more involved. In effect, we all have seven more weeks and five more days to decide how to change the world, all of us together as better citizens. The power is definitely yours.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Back in 1994, Missouri voters chose clearly in favor of campaign contribution limits.

More than one million Missourians made themselves heard loud and clear with a majority that amounted to nearly 74 percent.

After an earlier attempt to overrule the voters with a similar bill in 2006, the Missouri General Assembly has removed all campaign contribution limits for themselves.

Since Aug. 28 of this year, there is no limit to how much money a candidate can take from lobbyists, businesses, or rich individuals. What's more, candidates can launder the funds through the use of party committees to hide their real source. Money laundering is wrong when crooks do it, and it should be wrong when elected leaders do the same thing.

The General Assembly has told us that our votes no longer count. In the meantime they've opened their pockets to huge amounts of special interest money. It's almost a sure bet that tens of thousands of dollars will be given to some candidate/office holders in exchange for favorable consideration when the General Assembly re-convenes in January.

That's no way to run a country, and it's sure no way to run Missouri.

Rick Oswald
Langdon, Mo.

Have opinions? Want them heard?

The Northwest Missourian wants to know your take on what's going on around the campus, community, region, state, country and world.

We welcome letters from readers. All letters become the property of the Northwest Missourian, which reserves the right to edit them. Letters should include your name and address, along with day and evening telephone numbers. Letters should be between 150 and 300 words. Write us: Letters to the Editor, 800 University Drive, Wells Hall #2, Maryville, Mo. 64468; e-mail northwestmissourian@hotmail.com; or submit them at our Web site, NWmissourianews.com.

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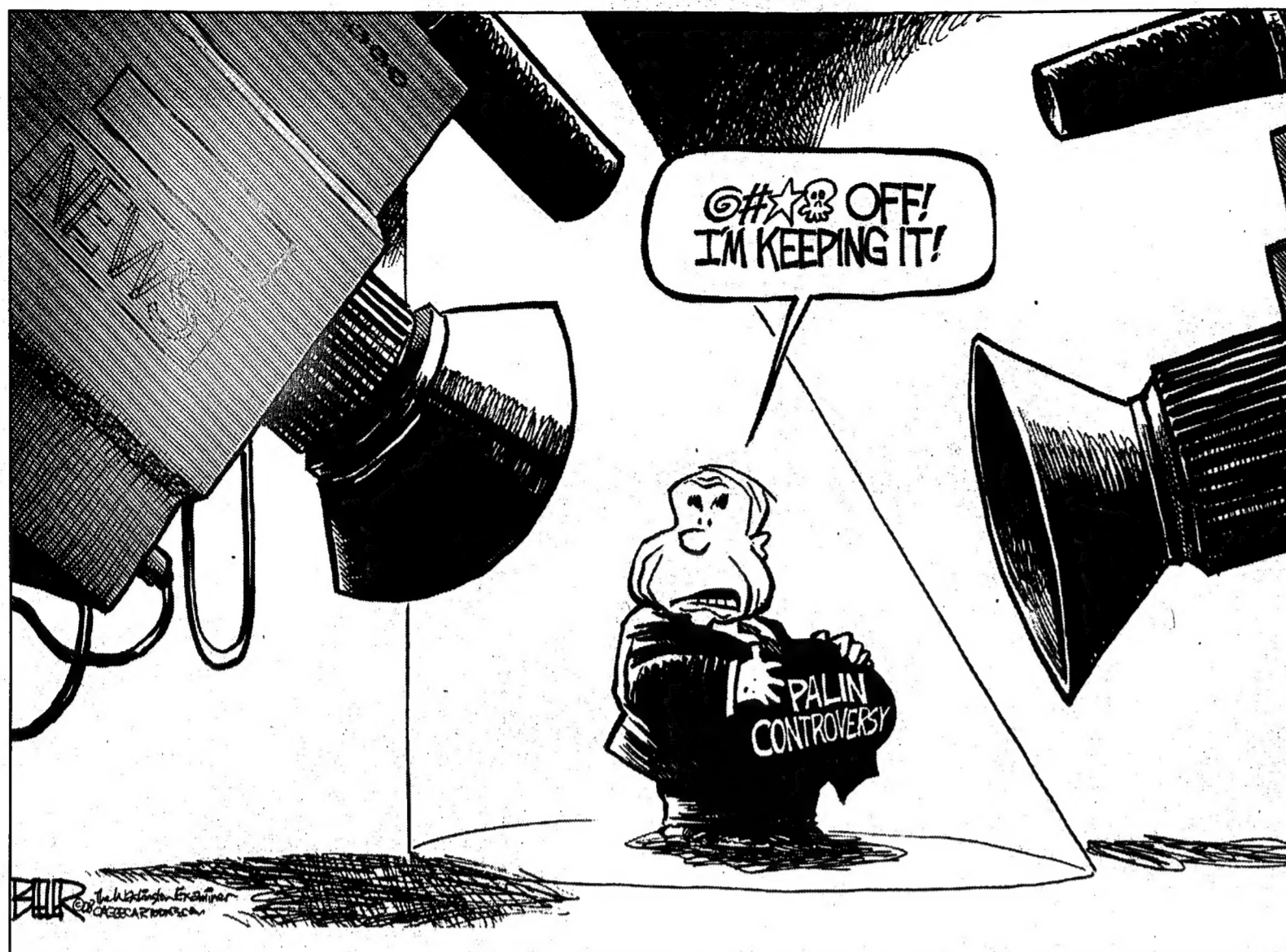
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OPINION



MY VIEW

Similar issue stances could confuse deciding voters

It is interesting to watch politics, especially at the height of the nation's most popular election. There are so many differences between the political parties of this day and age versus the political parties of many decades ago. On the surface, the political parties are set apart with a bold division line.

The recent conventions, however, prove that line's thickness has begun to diminish. Senators Barack Obama and John McCain, while being on opposite ends of the political spectrum, share the same interest in certain areas.

At his Democratic National Convention speech on Aug. 28, Obama stated he "will cut taxes ... for 95 percent of all working families." During his speech at the Republican National Convention on Sept. 5, McCain also said he "will keep taxes low and cut them" where he can. Both agree the economy needs a jumpstart — an endeavor that usually ends in turmoil of the voters' hard-earned wages.

Among the issues of high importance to U.S.



Darleen Denno
Contributing Columnist

are abundant enough for independence from foreign oil. The fact that both candidates share a common ground was clear during the national conventions. It is imperative for both candidates to have different views on how to lead the United States, because too many similarities could confuse voters.

The constant fluctuation of the line between

each party's stance on the issues could disturb the decision making process. Deciding on whom to vote for is this nation's biggest conflicting decision. If a voter's opinions are not completely set in stone, or if they have conflicting views with either candidate, they may face challenges in choosing a president on Election Day.

There is no room for ignorance in the voters' decisions. Each voter needs to closely research each candidate; to ensure that they will get the proper representation they long for in the White House.

The political parties will only become more intertwined as new leaders are elected. New ideas, decisions and problems influence the stance political parties will take. More parties will form, and traditional parties will sway. The only hope for electing a great American leader is to look past stereotypes, research each candidate thoroughly and vote accordingly.

This is not an election where voters should base their vote strictly on the political party to which they "belong." The stakes are much too high to vote stubbornly.

MY VIEW

Prime minister will overcome minority status

Just like the current administration of the U.S. relations with Congress, other governments too feel the pain of political deadlock with parliament.

Canadian Prime Minister, Stephen Harper, is no exception. However, unlike the U.S. presidential system, parliamentary systems can, theoretically, fix this deadlock. How, you may ask? The answer is a fascinating example of using the political power that belongs to most countries — by dissolving parliament and calling for elections! Exciting stuff, right? (Hint: The correct answer is yes.) And since Machiavelli is my hero, let's talk about this political power the United States is most definitely

missing out on.

Harper, who is surprisingly conservative for Canada, has spent the past two, almost three years suffering from the effects of a minority government, which means he has had to rely more heavily on other parties with other ideals than his own to form coalitions for support of legislation.

I'm sure you can imagine how messy and difficult this can become. Assuming Harper wins the



Kathleen Wilmes
Contributing Columnist

election, not only does this victory increase the legitimacy of the government and prime minister, but also would help to pass whatever legislation the party feels is best.

Keep in mind legislators in parliament are normally required to vote on issues by party consensus, and not necessarily on their own ideals or what people back home want. If, however, a legislator in parliament strays from this maxim, the legislator would more than likely have to deal with future political repercussions, such

as the inability to increase his or her influence, the inability to gain a ministry position in the cabinet, and so forth.

Even though most media, and people, bash Harper for this election "play," I think it is a great exercise of formal power as well as political power to gain what is necessary for not only the leading party, but the people of a nation-state as well.

Granted, a completely one-sided government has the potential to do a fair amount of damage, but remember a government that is stuck in political deadlock can have the ability to do the same amount of damage, especially when they are dealing with pertinent issues.

CAMPUS TALK

What was your reaction the Democratic and Republican national conventions?



"It gave me more respect for those running, but it didn't change my mind."
Greg Miller
Journalism



"It really reaffirmed my democratic beliefs. Palin's attack speech did not sway my vote."
Suzie Gilbert
Broadcasting



"Yes I watched it, but my opinion didn't change."
Chad Harms
Graphic Design



"I was too busy with homework, that I forgot to watch it."
Whitney Wake
Elementary Education



"I wanted to watch because of Palin, to see her views. But she never said how she was actually going to do things, so I'm still unsure of who to vote for."
Melissa Oigot
Psychology

PUBLIC SAFETY

Aug. 27

• Larceny, ongoing investigation, 200 block of W. Third

• Stephanie A. Morris, 20, Nicole M. Kennedy, 24, Maryville, affray, 1000 block of E. Fourth

Aug. 29

• Dylan J. Cloepfil, 21, Maryville, disorderly conduct, resisting arrest, 300 block of N. Market

• Hit and run, ongoing investigation, 200 block of W. Second

Aug. 30

• Andrew L. Frazier, 19, Maryville, assault, property damage, 200 block of S. Main

Aug. 31

• Austin T. French, 20, Maryville, minor in possession, 500 block of E. Jenkins

• Allyssa S. Harkrider, 18, Maryville, driving without a valid driver's license, improper registration, 100 block of S. Water

• Larceny, ongoing investigation, 700 block of N. Fillmore

• Hit and run, ongoing investigation, 700 block of S. Buchanan

Sept. 1

• Kollin G. Spight, 21, Kansas City, Ikechi O. O. Urum-Eke, 22, Maryville, disorderly conduct, assault, 200 block of S. Buchanan

• Keelen E. Green, 21, Maryville, disorderly conduct, 200 block of S. Buchanan

• Assault, ongoing investigation, 200 block of S. Buchanan

Sept. 3

• Cobra D. Harmon, 27, Maryville, assault, 200 block of North

• Rachel Boye, Maryville, failure

to obey school bus stop sign, 900 block of N. Mulberry

• Larceny, ongoing investigation, 1600 block of S. Main

Sept. 4

• Tyler A. McIntosh, 19, Maryville, minor in possession, 700 block of W. Second

• Mark A. Reek, 20, Maryville, minor in possession, 400 block of W. Seventh

• Clay S. Allee, 38, driving while revoked, 1500 block of E. First

Sept. 5

• Dustin R. Pierpont, 21, Maryville, permitting a peace disturbance, 400 block of S. Prairie

• Property damage, ongoing investigation, 300 block of E. Sixth

• Gwendolyn S. Rice, 18, Maryville, Derik J. Martin, 18, New Market, Iowa, minor in possession, 300 block of W. Second

• James A. Burris, 21, Maryville, driving while intoxicated, operating with an open container, 100 block of W. First

• Stefani K. Reed, 20, Maryville, minor in possession, open container in a motor vehicle, 100 block of W. First

• Larceny, ongoing investigation, 200 block of S. Walnut

• Jacob D. Watson, 18, Nathan J. Brunworth, 19, Maryville, minor in possession, 300 block of N. Mulberry

• Megan W. Weickert, 19, Matthew A. Hatcher, 20, Samuel W. Fain, 19, Christopher P. Snyder, 20, Patrick R. Montgomery, 18, Maryville, Frank P. Siragusa, 18, Kansas City, minor in possession, 300 block of W. Seventh

• Logan A. Thompson, 20, Maryville, minor in possession, 400 block of S. Prairie

• Kelli D. Petereit, 19, Maryville,

driving while intoxicated, minor in possession, failure to maintain right half of roadway, 300 block of N. Prairie

• Scott A. Honeyman, 22, Maryville, equipment violation, 1000 block of N. Fillmore

Sept. 6

• Kody D. Pfeiderer, 19, Maryville, minor in possession, 800 block of S. Walnut

• Shanda M. Pankau, 19, St. Joseph, driving while intoxicated, minor in possession, 800 block of S. Walnut

• Sterling R. Swayze, 19, Maryville, minor in possession, 300 block of W. Seventh

• Sean R. Peterson, 20, Maryville, minor in possession, 100 block of S. Mulberry

• Lauren A. Syring, 19, Maryville, minor in possession, 100 block of N. Buchanan

• Joseph M. Ramsey, Omaha, Neb., driving while intoxicated, illegal U-turn, 700 block of N. Mulberry

• Chelsea Bell, 19, Maryville, driving while intoxicated, minor in possession, failure to obey a posted stop sign

Sept. 7

• Lynne E. Chandler, 19, Maryville, minor in possession, 500 block of Prather

• Jared M. Bullock, 20, Maryville, resisting arrest, minor in possession, 1800 block of N. Grand

• Tyler W. Bosley, 19, Maryville, minor in possession, resisting arrest, 1800 block of N. Grand

• Kathleen J. Wilmes, 20, Maryville, minor in possession, 600 block of N. Davis

• Robert J. R. Self, 19, Kansas City, possession of drug paraphernalia,

minor in possession, 700 block of W. Edwards

• Property damage, ongoing investigation, 400 block of W. Jenkins

• Stolen motor vehicle, ongoing investigation, 300 block of E. Summit

• Disorderly conduct, ongoing investigation, 400 block of E. Fifth

• Larceny from a motor vehicle, ongoing investigation, 400 block of W. 15th

Sept. 8

• Trey J. Weingrad, 19, Maryville, wanted on warrant — failure to appear, 400 block of N. Vine

Sept. 9

• Lucas B. Stickney, 18, Maryville, minor in possession, illegal U-turn, 100 block of W. Third

ACCIDENTS

Aug. 28

• An unknown driver collided with Kathryn L. Myers of Maryville at the intersection of North Dewey and East Sixth.

Aug. 29

• An unknown driver collided with George E. Harvey II of Maryville at the intersection of North Buchanan and West Second.

Sept. 2

• Durward W. Rasco, 90, of Barnard, Mo., collided with Janice A. Coffman, 68, of Conception Junction, Mo., at the intersection of East South Avenue and South Market.

• Angela S. Hess, 35, of Mount City, Mo., collided with Larry J. Auffert, 65, of Ravenwood, Mo., at the intersection of U.S. Business Highway 71 and East South.

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photo by dominic genetti | project manager
SAXOPHONE PLAYER JOE Geiger plays along with the band to the University fight song.



photo by dominic genetti | project manager
DRUM MAJOR KYLE Dreessen conducts the band through many songs at home football games.



photo by dominic genetti | project manager

It's OK, I'm with the band

CURTIS PARSONS (LEFT), Ronnie Auxier (center) and Kevin Rieger (right) prepare to line up for the band's march to the pregame pep rally. The group's game day preparations Saturday began several hours before the 6 p.m. kickoff.

Game day for marching band begins long before kickoff

Dominic Genetti
Project Manager

As the Bearcats score a touchdown, he climbs a ladder, closes his hands and begins swaying them in the air. In an instant, Kyle Dreessen is conducting the Bearcat Marching Band through "Wings of Victory," the University's fight song.

He signals them to a lower volume when the team goes for the extra point, and as soon as the ball sails through the uprights they revert to their original pitch and the music walls throughout Bearcat Stadium.

Kickoff for the Bearcat battle between Northwest and Southwest Baptist University was at 6 p.m. Sept. 6, but for the marching band, the day began at 2 p.m. with rehearsal.

"Looking at it from the outside, it looks easy, but there's a lot of behind the scenes work that goes on with it," Dreessen said. Dressed out of uniform, the members gather at Mel Tjeerdma Field wearing shorts, T-shirts and tennis shoes.

Gathering on the field, they begin to practice. Standing on a spot in the west side stands of the stadium watching and instructing, Director of Bands Carl Kling sets his right foot onto the railing and leans on his knee. He sets down his binder and pencil and shouts a critique.

"The only issues I saw marching wise, ladies and gentlemen, was just a few individual things, most of them being upper body direction posture."

A middle-aged man standing at mid-height bearing a goatee, Kling twists his body right to left and demonstrates.

"We use a very standardized system, like a lot of marching bands do," he said. "We utilize the grid iron, the yard lines, the hash marks, the single yard marks up and down the field."

Wearing a microphone around the collar of his dark beige polo shirt, Kling coaches the group and makes sure each band member follows the planned routine for the upcoming evening show.

"They've got a code number, what we call a rank number and their placements are geared to the numbers of measures they play in the music," Kling said. "Whether they're supposed to move forward, whether they're supposed to move backwards, how many counts. That's all coordinated with the music itself."

Down on the field, the band repeats each routine to reach perfection. The augmented sounds of famed music group "Earth, Wind and Fire" fill the air as members march up and down the field. Taps from the drum line marching in the back row bounce off the empty bleachers of the student section, mirroring raindrops on a trash can lid.

Standing atop his ladder, Dreessen conducts. "That's my favorite part," he said. "Just hearing the music and being able to shape it in different ways."

Tall and thin with a bowl haircut and a light Abe Lincoln style beard Dreessen calls himself "the front image of the BMB". Conducting, is a big responsibility.

"Probably the biggest difficulty is tempo," he said. "Just knowing how fast the piece needs to go and getting it as close to that as you can every time. It has to stay consistent and that's probably the hardest part, starting them."

After a 90-minute rehearsal, members take an hour meal break before it's performance time.

Some go their separate ways to the J.W. Jones Student Union or local restaurants, but the majority eat in the music room of the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts building.

Voices buzz around the room as members talk about the upcoming performance and life outside the band. In the background, drummers tune their instruments.

"There's a sense of pride and tradition and these students are embedded with that," Kling said. "They have an immense sense of pride with what the BMB is beyond their membership in the group."

Thirty minutes to showtime they change into their white, green and black uniforms and have a quick meeting.

Kling goes over the game plan, announcements and leads a prayer. They leave the theater and prepare to start the show. Filling out the door, Dreessen gives a high-five to everyone upon their exit.

"Bearcats," he excitedly screams to the group. "Yeah, let's get pumped up."

The smack of the high-fives echo in the doorway. "It's an adrenaline rush," Dreessen said. "Knowing that I am the first person that steps out on that field ... it almost leaves you speechless."

Blowing his whistle, Dreessen leads the band's parade up College Avenue to the stadium.

"It's the greatest moments in my life up to this point," he said. Clouds fill the sky and a steady rain begins to fall.

Marching into the stadium with antics and fanfare, the band makes its way around the Herschel Neil Track to the field house under the west side stands.

Ten minutes later they're introduced to the fans over the P.A. system. "Northwest Missouri State University and the Department of Music are proud to present the Musical Pride of Northwest."

They rush onto the field and get into position. Let the show begin.

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NW CROSS COUNTRY

NORTHWEST RUNNERS LED the pack during the Bearcat/Spoofhound Open Saturday. The Northwest men placed 10 of the top 11 runners.



photo by Dustin Sander | assistant sports editor

Season opener pleases runners, coaches

By Dustin Sander
Assistant Sports Editor

Both Northwest men's and women's cross country were happy with how they started the 2008 season.

Saturday morning, the Bearcats hosted the Bearcat/Spoofhound Open. The men invited Highland Community College for the four mile race, and the women challenged Highland and Peru State for their 5k.

The 'Cats placed often in both the men's and women's contests. Ten of the first 11 runners to cross the finish line for the men represented Northwest. Unattached runner Matt Pohren finished first and set a new course record with a time of 20 minutes—57

seconds. Pohren is a graduate assistant for the 'Cats and formerly ran for the men's team.

On the women's side, the 'Cats placed nine runners before Peru State and Highland placed one. In the women's race, unattached runners also took part. Anna O'Brien set a new course record at 19 minutes—11 seconds and Jordan Esry finished close behind.

"I'm really pleased; we came out and did everything we wanted to do," coach Scott Lorek said. "We came out hard. This was a great step with a small home meet to see where we're at."

Individually for the 'Cats, T.R. Pursell led the team and all collegiate runners with a time of 21 minutes—23

seconds. Nine more 'Cats crossed the line following Pursell, including three freshmen.

"The freshmen ran tremendous races and our returning people were really solid," Lorek said. "Our summer programs are paying off and we're about a month or two away from being where we want to be."

The Bearcat/Spoofhound Open was the smallest meet the 'Cats will participate in this season, but the meet was a good measuring stick for the rest of the season, Lorek said.

The 'Cats expect competition to increase once they begin running in large meets with tougher competition. For a small race, Northwest proved themselves tough and saw positive signs this weekend, Lorek said.

"I'm very happy about it," Pursell said. "I felt strong and in better shape than last year. I'm really excited about the team and how all the guys finished. I'm really excited our freshmen ran really well for their first race of their college career."

Freshman Angela Adams finished as the women's top performer. Another freshman, Brittany Poole, finished third. Adams finished with a time of 20 minutes—34 seconds.

Both Lorek and Pursell think the team took a huge step toward success in the rest of their season and their hopes of making it to nationals.

The 'Cats take their next step toward nationals Sept. 20 at the Woody Green/Nebraska a Invitational in Lincoln, Neb.

MHS SOCCER

Experience lacking in team's 6-3 defeat

By Brian Bosiljevac
University Sports Editor

The Maryville soccer team did too little too late to prevent a 6-3 loss to Benton.

After scoring the first goal of the game, the Spoofhounds let the Cardinals take control of the first half.

"We really turned it around in the second half," coach Stuart Collins said. "The slow start is just evidence of our youth. As a team made mostly of freshmen and sophomores, we need to mature quickly."

The 'Hounds' struggles came from lack of teamwork, senior captain Jon Rogers said.

"We didn't play near as good as we should have," Rogers said. "Individually, we played a good game, but we didn't move the ball as a team, and that was definitely a problem."

Rogers, Kalvan Talmadge and Jack Hannegler were the three 'Hounds who scored a goal Tuesday night.

Rogers performs at a high level almost every game, Collins said.

"I was really impressed with Hannegler's play," Collins said. "He is a 6-foot-four midfielder and opponents really struggle to get around him, which is always fun to watch."

On the defensive side of the ball, the game played exactly the opposite of the offenses day with the defense starting strong and faltering as the game continued.

The defense started the game strong, Collins said. Forcing the Cardinals into six offside traps in the first half alone.

"After halftime, the defense started to look a little more rusty," Collins said. "I couldn't seem to get them to continue the offside trap that had worked in the first half."

Dexter Barnmann, who played goalie for the 'Hounds, felt he played well, but could have made more saves in the first half.

Barnmann said the defense played well but felt the 'Hounds struggled to contain the speed of the Cardinals.

After the loss, the 'Hounds plan on approaching the rest of their games with a more grounded attitude, Rogers said.

"We were definitely a little too confident," Rogers said. "They wanted more than us and that's why they won."

The 'Hounds started the Excelsior Springs Tournament yesterday against Warrensburg, but scores were not available at press time. They continue the tournament at 4 p.m., today against St. Joseph Lafayette.

MoWest Madness

Fans, players gear up to renew rivalry in MIAA opener

Marcus Meade
Sports Editor

A few certainties come with every Northwest-Missouri Western game. The stands will overflow, the fans will get rowdy and the records won't matter.

"It'll be a great game," Northwest coach Mel Tjeerdma said. "Both teams, it seems like, always play well against each other. It is a big rivalry."

This game marks the first conference game for both squads. Currently, the MIAA has five teams ranked in the American Football Coaches Association Top-25. The 'Cats (1-1) are ranked ninth. Missouri Western (1-1) is unranked.

"I would say there are probably at least seven (teams) who can challenge for a playoff spot," Tjeerdma said. "Obviously, you're only going to get three teams in at the most, so it's going to be a competitive. They're all good teams; that's the thing."

The Griffons took a 47-18 beating at the hands of Minnesota-Duluth last week, turning the ball over six times, but Tjeerdma doesn't expect another poor performance Missouri Western.

Tjeerdma would like to see his team keep improving as they did last week during the 63-28 rout of Southwest Baptist.

The 'Cat's defense got its second look at a high tempo offense against the purple Bearcats. Their defense appeared to handle it well, while some of their subs had trouble, Tjeerdma said.

"Think, in some things, we showed a lot of improvement from week one to week two," Tjeerdma said. "The thing you have to keep in perspective is that week one we played an awfully good team and week two we played a team that was OK at best."

Missouri Western also runs a no-huddle offense, but Tjeerdma doubts they'll be as high tempo as Baptist.

Offensively, 'Cat fans got a treat watching quarterback Blake Bolles add a new dimension to Northwest's offense. Bolles added in for starting quarterback Joel Osborn as a way to utilize his speed and potential as a running threat.

Bolles averaged 62 yards per carry against Baptist and went six for eight throwing.

"They are very different," Reid Kirby said. "I think, when Blake's in there, 50 percent of the time, he's the only one back there. We run a lot of no back with Blake back there. That matches up well against defenses."

Though Bolles adds a new wrinkle to the 'Cat attack, Osborn has nothing to worry about in terms of job security. He is the "unquestioned leader" of the 'Cats, Kirby said.

It's Kirby and senior captain Jeremy Davis' job to protect their leader from Griffin defensive ends Soane Etu and Bradley Davidson. Together, they've registered five-and-one-half sacks this season.

"I've only been here a couple years, and I've already grown to dislike them," Davis said. "We're going to be determined to run the ball on them and play our game."

The 'Cats get the chance to take on their rivals at 1 p.m., Saturday at Bearcat Stadium. See MADNESS on B2



THE BEARCATS HANDLED the Griffons in St. Joseph last year, 44-20. Despite last season's success, coach Mel Tjeerdma expects a tight game Saturday.

NW SOCCER



photo by christopher woodland | community sports editor

The Northwest soccer team kept Wayne State goalie Rachel Fuchs busy all game. The Bearcats out-shot the Wildcats 27-3 on their way to a 3-1 victory.

Team owns record win streak

By Christopher Woodland
Community Sports Editor

The Northwest soccer team took a major step toward its pre-season goal of becoming the best soccer team in the program's nine-year history last weekend.

The Bearcats (4-0) beat Northeastern (Okla.) State and Wayne State last weekend, 2-0 and 3-1 respectively, to move their school-record win streak to five and continue the best start in school history.

"Having the players that believe they can do that, and the players that want to do that has been key," coach Tracy Hoza said. "You know bringing in players that can do that has helped too."

Junior forward Andrea Tritz has been key for the 'Cats since transferring from Iowa Central Community College.

Against Wayne State, Tritz scored in the 49th minute to become the first Bearcat to score in four consecutive games. She leads Northwest with five goals for the season, and her three game-winning goals are the most by any player in the MIAA this season.

"Last year, in a lot of our games, we actually out-shot our opponents, but we couldn't get the ball in the back of the net," Hoza said. "Now, we have a great option, and she (Tritz) is a lifeline. You know somewhere along the line she's going to score, and she has a knack for it."

Sophomore midfielder Andrea Freeman opened the scoring against Wayne State with a goal in the 36th minute. Sophomore forward Kelsey Sanders added the final score with a goal following a free kick from Holly Raemaker.

Wayne State's goal ended Northwest's streak of four consecutive shutouts.

The 'Cats continue to out-shoot their opponents this year. They out-shot Wayne State 27-3. They out-shot their first four opponents.

This success comes after knee injuries sidelined two starting midfielders, including co-captain Heidi Sobota in the first game of the year.

Sophomore Whitney Macken filled in for the injured Sobota and performed well while holding down the middle, Hoza said.

The 'Cats early season success could be crucial heading into a grueling conference schedule.

"It gives us a ton of confidence going into conference play," Freeman said. "We're looking to play like we have been these last four games and continue to get our shots and score goals. A lot of our conference teams are pretty good."

The MIAA includes two Top-20 teams. The Bearcats have a few weeks before they contend with No. 6 Nebraska Omaha, but they open conference play tonight at No. 16 Truman State.

Truman swept the two-game series with the 'Cats by a combined score of 5-0 last season.

Truman (4-0) comes into the game outscoring opponents 11-1, and claims victories over No. 9 Central Oklahoma and No. 25 Quincy (Ill.).

The 'Cats follow that game with a trip to Missouri Western on Saturday. Northwest swept the Griffons in 2007. Northwest won the most recent meeting 1-0 in the game that launched the 'Cats current winning streak.

The Bearcats play at 4 p.m. today at Truman and at 7 p.m. Saturday in St. Joseph.

O-LINE

O-line lives a life of brotherhood

Senior offensive linemen mix unique personalities

By Dustin Sander
Assistant Sports Editor

Jerseys hang next to the mountain of men that dawn them every week. All four men have different shapes and different sizes but most importantly different styles, of play and of attitude.

The four seniors of the Bearcat offensive line may look the same every Saturday, but any other day of the week, they wear their own uniforms.

"We are very much a brotherhood here on the offensive line," left tackle Reid Kirby said. "It's stuff like that (different personalities), that makes us better."

Unlike an actual brotherhood these four all came from very different places. Center Matt Nelson and Left Guard Tom Pestock both came to Northwest straight out of high school. Nelson grew up watching the 'Cats and joined the team after graduating from Maryville High School in 2004. Tom Pestock came from Lenexa, Kan. and has been here for five years.

Davis, a 26-year-old senior from Fort Neches Texas, attended the University of Houston and played football for three years for the Cougars before becoming a Bearcat.

"I had a lot of off the field issues with a wild past that just got out of control," Davis said. "I was actually asked to leave the team. I took a few years off and realized I still wanted to play football and get an education so I came up here."

Kirby also chose a somewhat winding road to 'Cat country. After graduating from Oak Park High School in Kansas City, he went to the University of Kansas on a full ride football scholarship. Kirby was a Jayhawk for one season before leaving Lawrence, Kan. for Maple Woods Community College in Kansas City, Mo.

"I hated playing football at the (Division I) level; it wasn't for me," Kirby said. "They demanded too much of my time. I ended up paying for school myself, working at Dick's Sporting Goods while going to school. I didn't like that so much either, so I had a connection here and talked to the coaches and ended up coming up here. I like it 10 times better up here. The other guys are better here, it was a really good fit for me."

With Kirby and Davis' transfers complete and Nelson and Pestock already in place, the table was set for the making of this tight knit unit that would lead the way for the 'Cats.

"They've played together for three years now," coach Mel Tjeerdsmas said. "I think they bring a lot of confidence. They've been around, they know what to



photo by Seth Cook / chief photographer

(from left) Matt Nelson, Tom Pestock, Jeremy Davis and Reid Kirby open holes for Northwest running backs every Saturday.

expect and what's expected of them, and they go out and get the job done."

Since 2007, all four have started every game. During that time, they led the way for Xavier Omon's 2,000-yard season in 2007 and are 13-3 when starting together.

The four linemen say they spend most of their free time together and think their closeness off the field aids their success on it.

"It's like with brothers and sisters and close relationships like that have good times and bad times," Kirby said. "We definitely have our spats, but that's just us being ourselves."

The linemen may feel like brothers and a family but none of their personalities are anything alike. Nelson is laid back and the townie. Davis is the

family man of the offensive line. Davis is married and has a little girl. Pestock is the mean alternative member of this brotherhood. Kirby is laid back and a huge fan of soccer.

"If Kirby could lose a hundred pounds he would move to Europe and play soccer," Pestock said.

With this group of giant men their bonds and differences both play huge roles in the success of this team. Their closeness also makes communication during a game much easier. Kirby said it's a lot easier to figure things out on the field rather than have a coach pull them aside and draw it up on a board.

"They're all hard workers," Tjeerdsmas said. "They've all overcome some adversity that they've had, it adds a lot that they've worked hard together to get where they are."

VOLEYBALL

Weekend tourney gives chance at redemption

By Brian Bosiljevac
University Sports Editor

Maybe the Northwest volleyball team can catch a Mets or Yankees game this weekend — in between matches at the Hilton Garden Inn Invitational of course.

Last weekend, the Bearcats were sent home empty handed from the Missouri Southern Invitational. The 'Cats lost four straight matches by a score of a 3-0 in each.

"All of us know that we never want to play like that again," junior Sage Diessner said. "We decided that is the worst we are ever going to play. So, it is all going to be up from here on out."

Even though the 'Cats couldn't come away with a victory, a majority of the 'Cats' losses were by less than five points.

"We really need to work on our ability to finish," coach Anna Tool said. "That has been a struggle of ours. We need to take care of the ball, one ball at a time. When (the scores) are at 20-20, we need to be the team that pushes ahead and never lets up."

In many of the matches the 'Cats were tied or even held the lead but were unable to make a late game push.

Minimizing errors and playing till the end are their main concerns, Diessner said.

Tool thinks the only way to stay sharp late in the match is for individual players to demand more from themselves.

"We are definitely disappointed in the losses," fresh-

man Andrea Potter said. "We made a list of what each individual can improve on. So, we are working on those this week. Hopefully, we can turn around and come up with some wins this weekend."

Despite being shut out, Potter a true freshman, will probably have good memories of the Missouri Southern Invitational. Potter made her collegiate debut, at setter, in the 'Cats' third match of the tournament. Potter also tallied 27 assists in the loss to Central Oklahoma.

"She (Potter) did very well considering we had such terrible passes," Potter said. "For being a true freshman, she is definitely holding her own and doing a good job."

Potter overcame her nerves to produce 20 more assists in the 'Cats' final match against Dallas Baptist.

The 'Cats plan on using last weekend as a learning experience and starting fresh this weekend in New York.

While in New York, the 'Cats will face tough competition. They will face Bentley (Mass.), Dowling, and Adelphi. These teams all qualified for the NCAA national tournament last season.

The Hilton Garden Inn Invitational starts for the 'Cats at 4 p.m., Sept. 12, in Oakdale, N.Y., against Bentley (Mass.).

"So far, I think we have had our good and our bad moments," Diessner said. "We still haven't had a good level of consistency. We still have a long ways to go. Hopefully, this weekend in New York, we will get our consistency going."

SPOOFHOUNDS

FOOTBALL

Wyatt Moudlin carries the ball into the endzone for one of the Spoofhounds' six touchdowns Friday. Moudlin carried the ball five times for 36 yards.



photo by Seth Cook / chief photographer

Rushing attack makes way for blow-out victory

Christopher Woodland
Community Sports Editor

The Maryville Spoofhounds (2-0) move into their homecoming matchup with Benton (2-0) on the heels of a 42-7 manhandling of St. Joseph Lafayette.

Led by the razor-sharp attack of senior running backs John Farmer and Adam Mattson, the 'Hounds scored three times on plays longer than 60 yards to take a 35-0 lead late in the second quarter.

"Well, you know that's kind of what we do," Maryville coach Chris Holt said. "If we can keep getting big plays like that, I don't care if we lose in terms of time of possession."

From there, Lafayette senior quarterback Bryston Williams attempted to jump-start the Fighting Irish with a 73-yard run just before halftime.

The 'Hounds answered with a

four and a half minute drive capped by a 12-yard pass from senior quarterback Joe Jasinski to senior tight end Adam Thompson to start the third quarter.

Both Mattson and Farmer ran for more than 100-yards for the second straight week. Mattson also scored on his first carry of the game for the second week in a row, this time on a 28-yard run with just less than five minutes left in the first quarter.

Mattson finished the game with 153 yards and two touchdowns on eight carries, while Farmer contributed 118 yards and a touchdown on eight carries.

Farmer also picked up a punt and returned it 68 yards for a touchdown before the 'Hounds offense stepped on the field.

"I actually wanted Zeke (Williams) to pick it up because the (Lafayette) kid was coming down and obviously wasn't real concerned,"

Holt said. "I looked at him though and said he (Farmer) is going to pick this thing up and run with it. Farmer's amazing. Teams better prepare for him."

Quarterback Joe Jasinski finished the game five of seven passing for 63 yards and a touchdown. He also led all Maryville defenders with 7.5 tackles.

Junior linebacker Evan Johnson recorded 1.5 sacks and senior linebacker Zach Sherry also had a sack.

This week the 'Hounds welcome a Benton team that has already equaled its 2007 win total and outscored its opponents 48-12.

"They will be the best defensive team we will have played this year," Holt said. "They are really big up front and their linebackers are veterans. They haven't really played anybody that's thrown the ball, but they are as good up front as we've

seen all year."

The coaching staff has been racking their brains trying to augment their attack to counter the Cardinals' defensive schemes Holt said.

Offensively, the Cardinals run an option attack with a pair of hard-nosed running backs. They should attempt to slow the tempo of the game and grind the 'Hounds defense down, Holt said.

The players must also try to avoid all the distractions and festivities that come along with Homecoming week.

"It'll be like a regular week," Jasinski said. "You know there will be a few distractions here and there, but I think for the most part we'll stay focused and just get ready for the game ... and make sure we win."

The 'Hounds and Cardinals kickoff at 7 p.m. Friday at Maryville High School.

SOFTBALL

Girls hold on against Savages to remain undefeated

Dustin Sander
Assistant Sports Editor

The Spoofhounds offense, defense, and pitching all came together to beating Savannah, Tuesday.

The Maryville girls' softball beat Savannah for the second time after a slow start.

"It took a little bit for the bats to wake up, so I was a little frustrated with that," coach Jacqui Conn said. "Then, even defensively, which is one of our biggest strengths, the first innings were just a little bit sloppy. Eventually, they did wake up I was pleased with that, better late than never."

The game didn't end up being close, but the Savages did make the game interesting in the top of the fourth. Savannah scored one run to make the score 5-2, then loaded the



photo by Seth Cook / chief photographer
PITCHER MEGAN WALKER pitches against Savannah.

bases with two outs. Senior pitcher Megan Walker entered the game to put out the fire. "When you come in, in a situation like that, you're

always a little nervous. But I guess it wasn't bad," Walker said. "I've been in situations when I've been more nervous than that."

After giving up one run on a past ball, Walker cruised striking out the next eight batters.

The game began with freshman pitcher Holly Whilmarth on the mound for the 'Hounds.

"Holly has pitched some, but obviously she's not to Megan's point yet, but I have full confidence she'll get there," Conn said. "She's young, and she hasn't had as much game experience ... but we have a lot of confidence in her. It's good for her to get those innings in."

Savannah jumped to an early 1-0 lead in the top of the first. The 'Hounds responded in the bottom of the second inning to tie the game 1-1. Then, in the bottom of the third, the 'Hounds put up four runs taking advantage of faulty defense by the Savages and a home run by sophomore Taylor Gadbois.

The 'Hounds used small ball to add the rest of their runs in the bottom of the fourth while Walker

steamrolled through the Savannah line up. Maryville and Walker ended the game with a strikeout and a final score of 10-3.

Last weekend, Maryville went 3-0 in a sweep of the Auburn Tournament in Auburn, Neb.

"We played a lot of tough competition there, and we ended up hitting the ball really well," Conn said.

Last Thursday, the 'Hounds took on Lafayette at home in a close 1-0 bout. The 'Hounds pulled out a victory in the last inning after both pitchers threw no-hitters going into the last inning. Walker was only one error away from a perfect game against the Irish.

The 'Hounds remain undefeated at 7-0 this season. They will take on Benton at 5 p.m. today, in St. Joseph.

VOLEYBALL

'Hounds hope to stay hot

Brian Bosiljevac
University Sports Editor

The Maryville volleyball team hopes to continue their success in their first conference match-up against LeBlond, tonight.

"We are going to work on a lot of blocking and a lot of covering," coach Lori Klaus said. "We know that they are probably going to have a big block. That is where we need the most focus, because I think that our girls get timid when there is a big block up there, and we just need to learn to hit around it."

The Spoofhounds have found success early on this season, extending their record to 7-1 with Tuesday's win over Tarkio.

Klaus said the 'Hound's strength has come from their consistent play from every position.

Although Klaus looks to no one

player as a star, it is junior Libbey Howell who she thinks has been the most consistent. Howell led the 'Hounds in seven kills and 14 digs.

"I have really been getting a lot of good passes," Howell said. "She (setter Sam McGinness) has really been making it easy for me by giving me a lot of chances to get a good hit."

McGinness tallied 21 assists, nine digs, and one ace against Tarkio.

McGinness and Howell agree the key to their success this season is the friendship the team shares both on and off the court.

The 'Hounds are also coming off a second place finish in the Fairfax Tournament last weekend.

The 'Hounds will take the court next at 5 p.m. tonight, at home. They will then be hosting the 'Hounds Invite starting at 8 a.m. Saturday.

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Athletes of the Week

LaRon Council

Northwest running back LaRon Council led the Bearcat rushing attack with 117 yards on 22 carries and three touchdowns. Council was named the starting running back this season as a replacement to Xavier Omon. He spent the last two seasons battling injury, but remains healthy so far this season.

Andrea Tritz

Forward Andrea Tritz is now a large part of the Bearcat soccer team's offense. Tritz scored a goal in Sunday's game against Wayne State and two goals against Northeastern State Friday. Tritz has scored in all four of the 'Cats' game this season and leads the team with five.

John Farmer

It took only eight carries for senior John Farmer to collect 118 yards Friday against Lafayette. That equals a 14.8 yards per carry average. Farmer also added a touchdown during the 42-7 rout of the Irish. Farmer also collected 2.5 tackles on defense.

Megan Walker

Pitcher Megan Walker achieved one of the greatest accomplishments in softball this week — a no-hitter. Last Thursday, Walker no-hit Lafayette and was only on error away from a perfect game. Walker is the team's ace, but came on in relief to secure the game Tuesday against Savannah.

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The women behind the men

Facts about the potential first ladies of America

Michelle Obama

- 44 years old
- Grew up on the south side of Chicago

Father, Fraser, worked as a pump operator for the Chicago

Mother, Marian, was stayed at home to raise Michelle and older brother, Craig.

• She attended Princeton, where she studied sociology and African American studies.

• Attended Harvard Law School

• Michelle is the founding director of the Chicago chapter of Public Allies, a program that prepares young people for public service.

• Michelle met Barack while working at the Sidley and Austin law firm in Chicago.

• The marriage, which took place on Oct. 18, 1992, was the first marriage for both.

• The Obamas have two daughters, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7.

• Michelle has worked for the University of Chicago since 1996. She began as associate dean of student services and later became the vice president of community and external affairs for the University of Chicago Medical Center.

• On June 3, 2008, after claiming the democratic nomination in St. Paul, Minn., Barack and Michelle exposed the infamous "fist bump" to America. Since, the act has been called a "terrorist fist

All of us driven by a simple belief that the world as it is just won't do — that we have an obligation to fight the world as it is. That's the thread that connects our hearts. That's the thread that runs through my journey and Barack's journey and so many other improbable journeys that have brought us here tonight, where the current of history meets this new tide of hope." Michelle Obama, 2008 Democratic National Convention

Cindy McCain

- 55 years old
- Cindy is the only child of James and Marguerite Hensley.

• She received an undergraduate degree in education and a Master's degree in special education from the University of Southern California.

• Cindy founded and ran the American Voluntary Medical Team (AVMT) from 1988-1995. In those seven years, she led 55 medical missions to third world countries and war-stricken areas.

• She is the chairman for her family's business, Hensley and Company, which is one of the largest Anheuser-Busch distributors in the country.

• Cindy and John met while she was on vacation with her parents in Hawaii in 1979.

• The couple married on May 17, 1980. When they applied for their marriage license, the reason they had lied to one another about their age, John making himself younger, and Cindy making herself older.

• John has three children from his first marriage to Carol Shepp — Doug, 48, Andrew, 46 and Sidney, 41. After marrying Cindy, the couple had three children of their own — Meghan, 22; Jimmy, 20 and Jack, 22. In 1993, the couple adopted a little girl from Bangladesh, Bridget, now 17.

• Cindy serves on the Board of Directors for Operation Smile, a non-profit organization which provides reconstructive surgeries to children with facial deformities.

• "Each day, after the bands packed up, the speeches were done, and the camera lights darkened, I always came back to how blessed and honored I was to be part of our national conversation. And in these times, when so many of our fellow Americans face difficult situations, what I saw moved me deeply. Families worried about losing their homes. Towns deserted by industries once at their center. Mothers with no choice but to send their children to unsafe and underperforming schools.

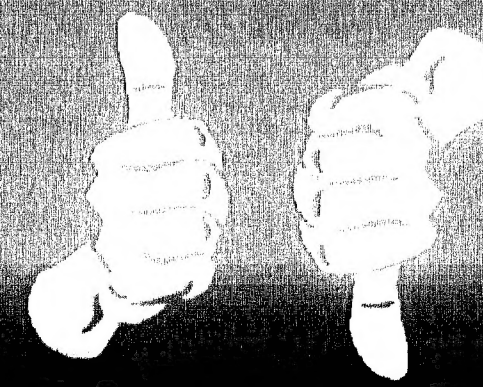
But I have also seen the resilience of the American people. I've heard stirring stories of neighbor helping neighbor, of cities on one end of the country offering help to fellow citizens on the other. Despite our challenges our hearts are still alive with hope and belief in our individual ability to make things right if only the federal government would get itself under control and out of our way. So tonight is also about renewing our commitment to one another. Because this campaign is not about us. It's about our special, exceptional country." Cindy McCain, 2008 Republican National Convention

P.S.

Art and Entertainment Guide

'One Man Glory'

Rocker, Broadway star, Adam Pascal tells us why he loves it all.



in this issue

he said, she said
shawn jones and sophia westermayer answer the burning questions everyone is curious about — the election, pop princesses and text messaging.

now entering the cage
maryville resident raymond upshaw lets us in on his journey of preparing for his very first mixed martial arts fight. pg. 3

one man glory
we chatted with broadway star adam pascal about life after "rent," his latest project with partner larry edoff and everything in between. pg. 4-5

Thumbs Up Thumbs Down



- Olympic hottie Michael Phelps hosting "Saturday Night Live" this week
- Broadway star Adam Pascal performing at Northwest
- A milestone presidential election
- The release date of "Twilight," a movie said to be the next "Harry Potter," being moved up a month

- Jessica Simpson trying to be a country singer
- The new Facebook
- Mud-slinging political ads
- Cold weather rushing in to Maryville way faster than it's welcome.
- Britney Spears not performing on the VMAs



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Staff
Erin Young, Editor in Chief
Whitney Keyes, Managing Editor
Courtney Edwards, Design Editor
Lindsay Jacobs, Copy Editor
Sydney Moore, Features Editor
Brian Johnson, Entertainment Reporter
Ashley Spaulding, Photography Editor
Matt Terwilliger, Chief Photographer

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Shawn Jones and Sophia Westermayer

Which presidential candidate are you leaning toward?

Shawn: "I'm leaning toward McCain because I'm from a military family."

Sophia: "McCain because we both have the same values and life morals."

How many texts do you send in a day?

Shawn: "Twenty on average"

Sophia: "Fifteen to 20"

How do you feel about Jessica Simpson coming out with a country album?

Shawn: "I don't really care. I don't listen to country."

Sophia: "She can definitely pull off the daisy dukes, and she's got a great voice, so I'll give her a chance."

What is the most important political issue to you right now?

Shawn: "The economy because it's down right now."

Sophia: "Money for school"

If you were stuck on an island and could only hear one song, what would it be?

Shawn: "Freebird," by Lynard Skynard

Sophia: "Should've Said No," by Taylor Swift

P.S. want to be interviewed for he said/she said? contact the P.S. desk at 862.1224 or e-mail at ps.missourian@gmail.com

WEIGHTS ARE
JUST a part of
Upshaw's training
in preparation for
his first mixed
martial arts fight.

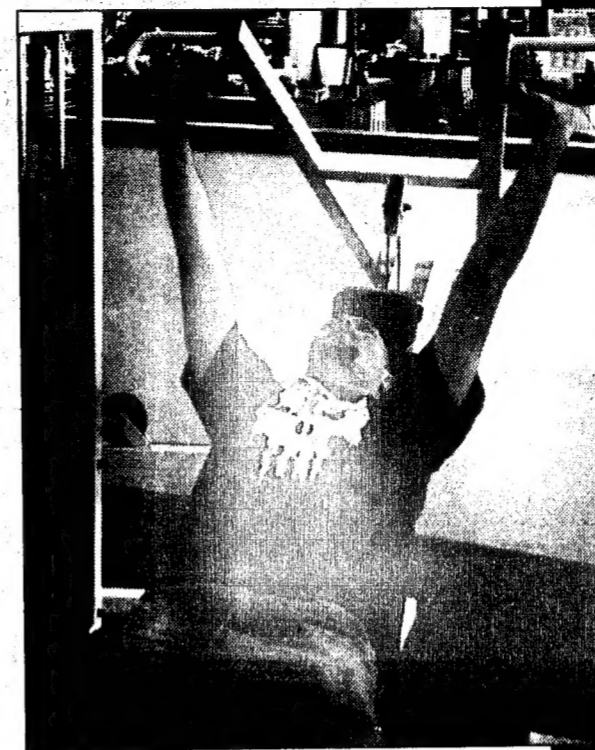


photo by matt terwilliger

Fighter prepares to take on new battles



photo by matt terwilliger

Brian Johnson
Entertainment Reporter

A deafening sound of grunts as fists hit a hard boxing pad can be heard throughout Looks Gym in downtown Maryville.

It's very fitting that the T-shirt Raymond Upshaw is wearing during this workout is of the comic book hero, "The Punisher." Punishment is what Upshaw hopes to unload on his opponent Friday in his first mixed martial arts fight.

"As far as this fight goes," Upshaw says with a tiny smirk across his face. "I'm fearless."

Upshaw is entering the often-misunderstood world of mixed martial arts. A full contact sport that was once called "human cockfighting" by Sen. John McCain in 1993, has since

Upshaw, who stands 6 feet 4 inches and will be fighting at 190 pounds, claims over 100 street fights to his name. He will be stepping into the cage in a professional setting Sunday at the Maryville Community Center on Sept. 14 against 5'6" Justin Herzberg.

The Maryville native who works at Kawasaki, says he's been training very hard despite doubt coming from all sides on how well he will perform.

"Nobody gave me a chance when I decided to do this," Upshaw said. "But now they see the hard work I've put into it, and people are starting to believe I can win."

Upshaw claims that there is

plenty of hard work that is needed in this sport. He trains two to four hours a day, five to six days a week. His workouts consist of weights, cardio, speed drills, boxing skills, and ground game as well as one of the most popular martial arts forms, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

"I do have a better ground game than my opponent," Upshaw said. "But I do want to knock him out."

Upshaw claims his first experience in competition was street fighting. He claims his hero is Kimbo Slice, a former street fighter turned professional mixed martial artist. He says that he did not start all of his fights but then with a chuckle claims that he did start a good percentage of them.

Upshaw also has had experiences fighting with his older brother growing up. In fact, Upshaw has had a tooth knocked out while brawling with him.

"Basically my brother knocked my tooth out with his prosthetic leg," Upshaw says with a laugh. "It's been replaced with a filling now."

Upshaw prides himself on being a fighter despite the sport being looked down upon by many. Fighting is one of the oldest forms of sport dating back to the earliest days of the Olympics. However, Upshaw still seems to think the sport is looked down upon by most of society. He does find it humorous that the sport is seen as such a blood sport when in his opinion, it isn't.

"It's not like you're going out there to kill a guy," Upshaw said with

a laugh. "It's about gaining respect and proving yourself."

Upshaw is also quick to point out that he is not doing this for fame.

"It's a lot more than just getting fans," Upshaw said. "You get respect from others and most importantly gaining self-respect."

Despite Upshaw's claim to have been in over 100 street fights, he says he's very religious. He attends bible study every week and considers himself a Christian. He realizes that some may see that as a dichotomy of being religious but also wanting to fight people for an activity and also professionally.

"As far as my religion goes, it's a personal thing," Upshaw said. "Like I've said, I'm out there to prove myself and to not hurt the guy."

This is just the start of Upshaw's career and he believes he has nothing but time and potential on his side in these early stages. He has high hopes for where his career will go.

Upshaw wants to eventually move out of Maryville and go to Brazil to study Jiu-Jitsu. He thinks that the most important lessons to learn from mixed martial arts are outside of the United States, because mixed martial arts' roots are deeply laid in Brazil and other countries besides the United States.

"Right now, I'm just looking to get my name out there," Upshaw says with a serious expression that then changes to a smirk. "But I do have dreams of reaching the big leagues one day."

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UPSHAW REMINISCES
ON his past street
fights, as well as
discusses his plans for
his mixed martial arts
career.

P.S. local fighter trades streets for cage
page 3

Adam Pascal: One Man Glory

Broadway star talks about new album, "RENT" and life as a rock star

By Sydney Moore
Features Editor

His powerful, rock-esque voice filled the Broadway stages and the silver screen for years, but tonight at 7:30, the small stage of the Performing Arts Center will host Adam Pascal ("RENT," "Aida") as the year's first Encore performance.

Pascal, who is best known for his role as Roger in the musical turned movie, "RENT," will perform tracks from his new album, "Blinding Light," with songwriter Larry Edoff, along with a few rearranged Broadway tunes.

With Pascal's edgy voice and Edoff's musicianship, the two decided it was time to collaborate for their first album together.

"Larry and I had been touring around and playing for two years as a duo, playing bass and piano," Pascal said. "We played a combination of material from my two solo records, plus a few rearranged Broadway songs."

After the two worked together for a while, they decided it was time to take their project to the next level.

"On an artistic level we just totally clicked as a writing team," he said. "So we just had all these songs and decided it seemed like the right thing and right time to make a record of this stuff. It all kind of came out of the organic process of

playing together for a couple of years."

As a songwriter, Pascal has a unique process for writing his songs.

"I never write lyrics first," he said. "I write the music, then the melody and the lyrics tend to come from the emotion that the melody is producing. I create a story or scenario that fits the mood of the song."

Pascal, who made his theatrical debut as Roger in the Broadway production of "RENT," credits maturity and experience to the evolution of his talent since he released his first album, "Model Prisoner" in 2002.

"I've become a much better musician since that record," he said. "My performance, as well as my writing, has grown simply out of that fact. As you get better at your instrument, your toolbox just starts to fill more and more. Your options of what you're able to use increases and you can start getting more interesting with your ideas because you are able to execute them."

Pascal's role in "RENT" is the one that he credits for launching his career. Starting as an off-Broadway production at the New York Theatre Workshop in 1994, Pascal and the rest of the cast had no idea what would become of the hit musical.

"The first night was really weird, we were all meeting each

other for the first time and everyone in a way was in shock," he said. "We didn't know what were getting in to, but it was an exciting project and there were exciting prospects for it."

After a 12-year run on Broadway, the show that Pascal helped make famous, had its final performance Sunday, Sept. 7. Although it's the end of Broadway's seventh longest running show, Pascal knows that it's not the end.

"It's just the end of that chapter, its definitely not the end of "RENT," I know not in my life anyway," he said. "It will always be a part of my life."

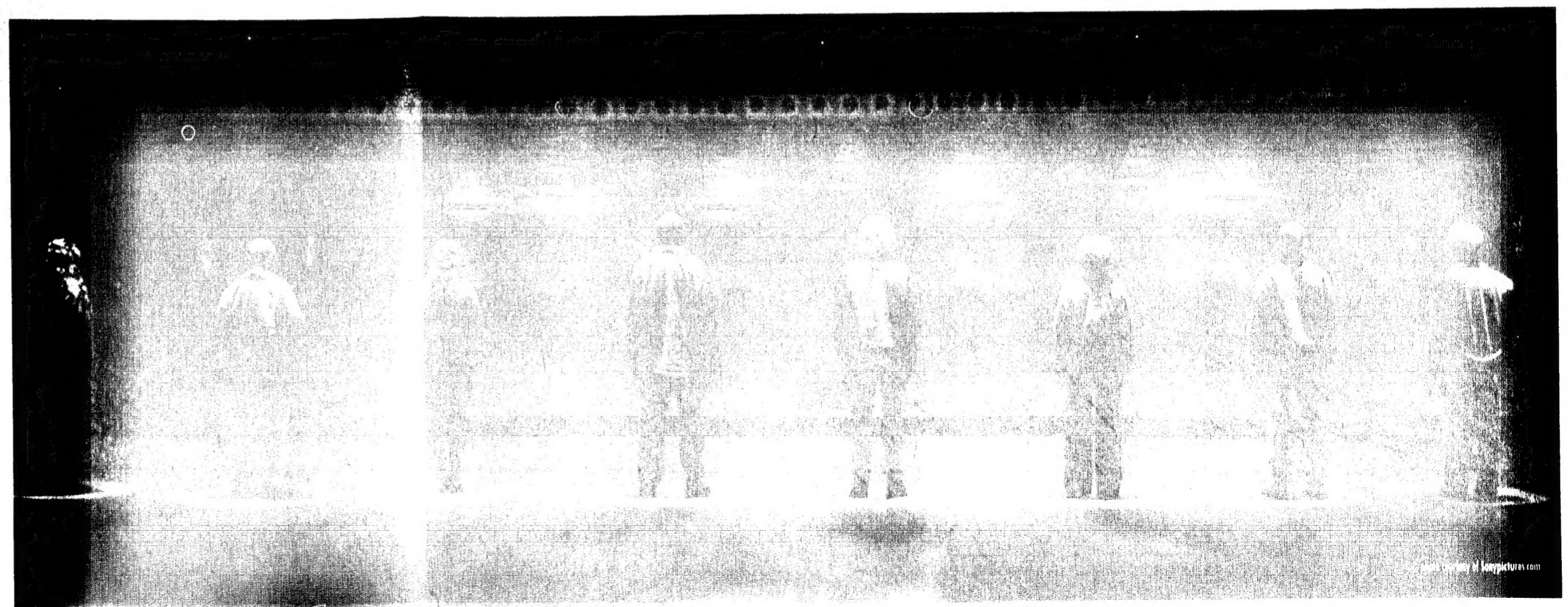
"It was really an incredible experience, and I'm so proud that it lasted as long as it did, it's an incredible accomplishment."

With a long list of accomplishments behind him, Pascal says he has known his entire life that his niche was in performing.

"I honestly can't do anything else," he said, laughing. "I know that I was born with this talent and this voice, and it's what I'm supposed to be doing. And its just like, the older I get, the better I get and the more I enjoy it."

Listen to audio from our interview with Adam at

NWmisso((H))s.com



THE BEST OF...

Top 5 Movie Villains

Brian Johnson
Entertainment Reporter

Hannibal Lector

Just the name sends shivers up movie-goer's spines. Few performances if any captured what Anthony Hopkins delivered in the classic "Silence of the Lambs" as Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lector. There is no other villain who comes close to this, because he is the complete antithesis of a villain. He's ruthless, remorseless and violent all the while still having a strange calmness in his demeanor as if he believes what he is doing is right. Absolutely one of the best characters, villains and performances in the history of movies.

The Joker

Take whichever performance you like, either Heath Ledger's or Jack Nicholson's, but there is no doubt this character is the most visually terrifying character in the history of cinema. The widely accepted fear of clowns is justified in Batman's archenemy with a mix of black comedy, violence and a relentless persona. He is a masterpiece of a character while at the same time making it very difficult to even look at him.

Anton Chigurh

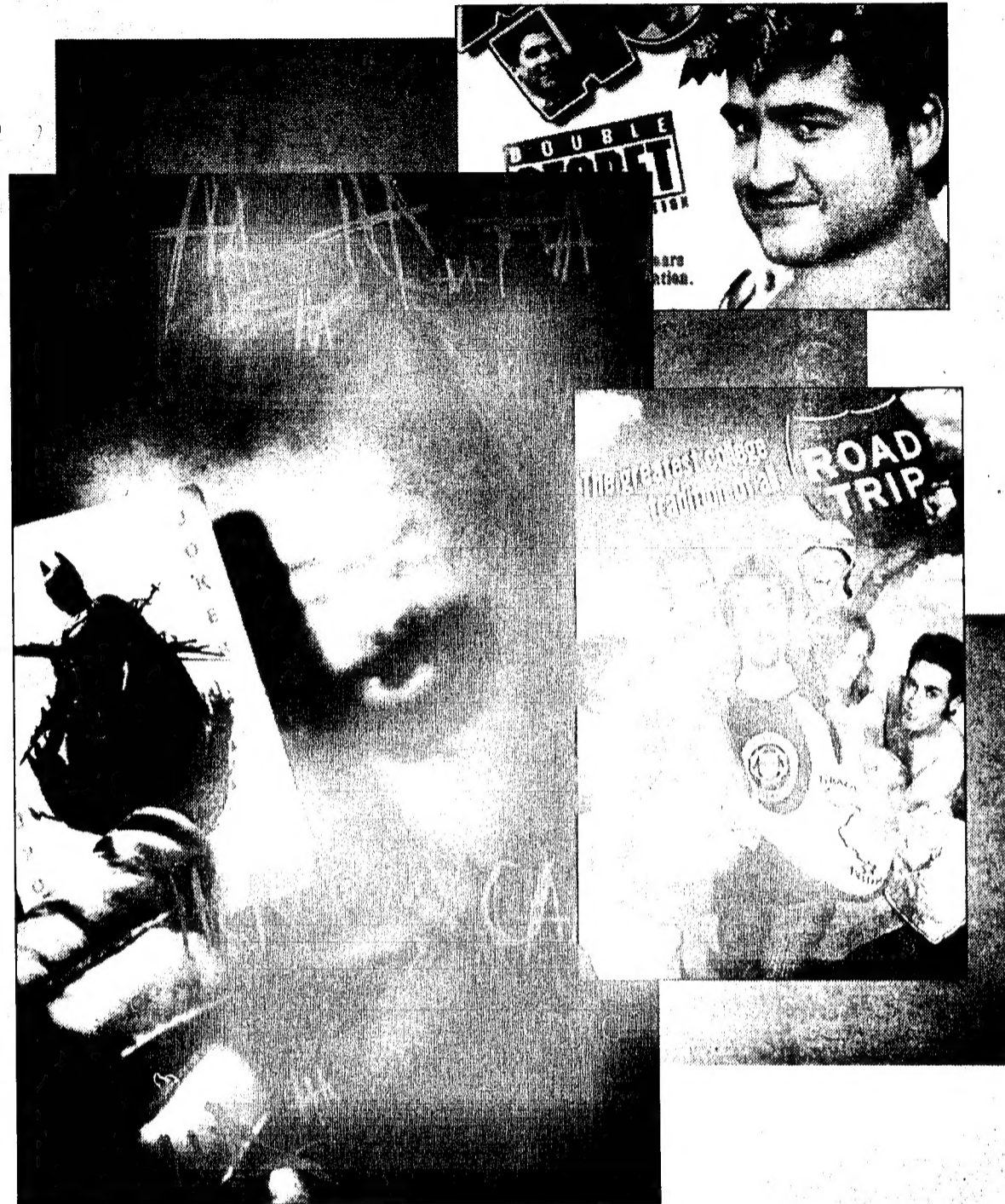
Javier Bardem's portrayal of Anton Chigurh in "No Country for Old Men" may be one of the most misunderstood and deeply disturbing villains in movie history. It's because of this so many people are attracted to the character and Bardem's performance. A killer with no remorse, feelings and hesitation who has his own means of justice made this one of the more quietly disturbing characters in recent movies.

Hal 9000

Fear of technology could be drawn from this character of "2001: A Space Odyssey" fame. Hal 9000's quiet delivery of his dialogue may be one of the most terrifying sounds in movies. What made him so especially scary, was that he was a robot completely incapable of emotion and of conscience while having a ruthless killer instinct.

Wicked Witch of the West

What child didn't cry and hide in their mother's arms when they saw Margaret Hamilton's portrayal of this "Wizard of Oz" villain? Possibly the very first mainstream villain in movies is also one of the most prominent. This was the starting point for a lot of film antagonists to come. Disgustingly terrifying is the best way to describe the Wicked Witch who provided the subjects of nightmares for children for years.



TOP 5 COLLEGE COMEDIES

Brian Johnson
Entertainment Reporter

"Animal House"

This film is to college movies what "The Godfather" is to gangster movies. Who would have thought that a simple movie about a drunken fraternity would stand the test of time so well? We can owe that to the timeless performance of one of the best comedians to ever walk among us, John Belushi. Often imitated but never replicated, "Animal House" is simply the greatest college movie of all time.

"Old School"

What college student doesn't own this? It is a story about a bunch of middle-aged guys with dead end jobs starting their own fraternity.

An all-star cast sold this movie, with comedic genius Will Ferrell taking the spotlight in possibly his funniest role. From streaking, to beer bonging to flaming mascots, there's not one boring part in this movie.

"Back To School"

The great Rodney Dangerfield was never funnier than in this fish out of water story about an aging millionaire returning to college with his son. Dangerfield's classic comedic mind was on full display along with great cameos from late great comedian Sam Kinison and a young Robert Downey Jr. ("Iron Man") This film has a secure place in top comedies of the '80s and in the top college movies ever made.

"Van Wilder"

Ryan Reynolds is forever the greatest college slacker in the history of college movies. His portrayal of Van Wilder, a man who has been in college for seven years and no plans of getting out anytime soon. Another movie with not a dull moment and a great cameo from Paul Gleason of "Breakfast Club" fame.

"Road Trip"

From the creatively funny mind of Todd Phillips, the same mastermind behind "Old School," "Road Trip" is very self-explanatory: a bunch of college kids on a road trip and all the shenanigans they get into. Tom Green is definitely at his best with his unique crazy humor along with a great comedic performance from Sean William Scott of "American Pie" infamy.

Sounds of the cinema

By Sydney Moore
Features Editor

Being the nerd I am, I love musicals. I love the singing and dancing, the lights and sets and everything in between.

The obsession with musicals started my junior year of high school. I had heard a lot of hype about the upcoming movie, "RENT" and I was really looking forward to seeing it when it came to my hometown theater. I saw the movie on opening night and immediately fell in love.

I quickly bought the soundtrack, read any info I could possibly find about the play and cast, and suddenly became a self-proclaimed "Rent-head." I couldn't tell you to this day how many times I have watched the movie, rocked out to the soundtrack in my car and dreamt I was Mimi.

After a few months of driving my friends and family crazy with "RENT" knowledge, my uncle took it upon himself to give me the best birthday gift ever - a trip to New York to see "RENT" in its original form on Broadway.

After seeing the stage performance, I was even more intrigued by the characters and story line than ever before. This led me to think about something else.

By turning popular Broadway shows into movies, the industry is trying to reach out to a different audience. I'm guilty of being that audience. Had "RENT" never come out on the silver screen, I would have probably never been introduced to the wonderful world of Angel and Collins' love, Mark, Maureen and Joanne's interesting relationship or Roger and Mimi's rocky relationship.

I also would have also never witnessed the gang dancing on tables while singing "La Vie Boheme," or Angel's impressive dance moves in heels so high that I still haven't figured out how Wilson Heredia didn't hurt himself over the years.

I think it's great that more and more musicals are being turned into movies to target new audiences. Shows like "RENT" and "Phantom of the Opera" have been on Broadway for years and have been favored by many people, but the movie adaptations reach out to an entirely new generation.

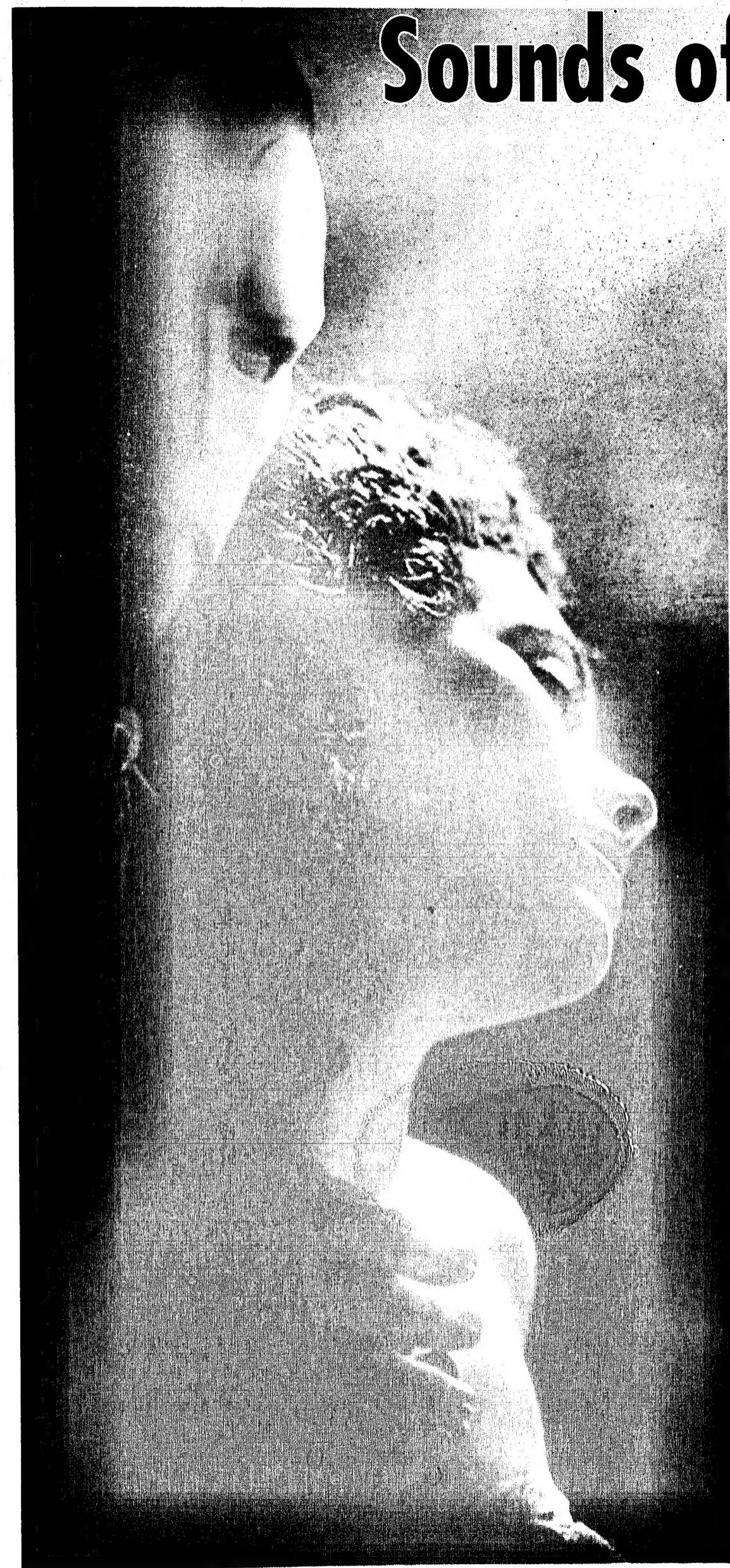
A perfect example also relates to my newfound love for musicals my junior year of high school. Of course I had heard about "Phantom of the Opera" and knew the story behind it, yet I had never experienced it - nor did I think I would ever have any desire to. The whole opera thing wasn't really in my taste, but after my choir teacher mentioned that we do a piece for a concert I slowly started to develop a knack for the songs in the musical. My new love for "Phantom of the Opera" was once again, all thanks to the movie production, which made it possible for me to witness something I probably would have never seen otherwise.

Thanks to the movie musicals, the shows will be around a lot longer than if they were only on Broadway. New fans will hopefully hold their interest in the films and maybe even get a lucky chance, like I did, to see their favorite play live.

To this day, I think my love for musicals and "RENT" in particular is all thanks to the movie production. As sad as it is to see it closing on Broadway after 12 years, I'll always be thankful that I was introduced via film to the wonderful production.



Sydney Moore
Features Editor



"The Phantom of the Opera"

P.S. College kids and creepers

page 6

P.S. musicals find fans at the multiplex

page 7

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'House Bunny' boasts some fun, little depth



Anna Farris in "The House Bunny"

as beautiful. They definitely see this movie and realize the beauty in themselves can be on the exterior as well. Beyond that, not a whole lot can be taken away from this film.

Farris is an extremely talented comedic actress. Far too talented for this film, in which she has some shining moments, but not even her talent can save it. It's a fun film to be taken very lightly and it will be enjoyable to the some members of the female college crowd and even to some of the regular college crowd. It's "Legally Blonde" meets "Animal House" as far as premises go, but without the comedic timing and awesome scripts.

Stone really did shine in this film with her unique awkward comedic approach paired with an impeccable beauty in her self-deprecating role as the head of the sorority. She has a great future ahead of her. I particularly enjoyed her scenes the most and they really made me fall in love with her character.

There were times where I found myself laughing at inappropriate times and in inappropriate contexts. I'm getting particularly sick of penis jokes being used as a cheap laugh instead of innovative comedy being used, and no, innovative comedy does not include women falling over all the time. Just tune into "Desperate Housewives" for that crap. So yes, I did find myself laughing at said scenes, but just out of irony at their pathetic attempts for comedy.

"House Bunny" is obviously no "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and has no intention of being, but I don't even think it qualifies as being on the same par as "Legally Blonde." It's fun and touching, and provides a great time for the college aged, but it just has too many problems that can't be solved. For one to expect a lot from this film would be a dumb move anyway. Perhaps the filmmakers should've spent more time at film class and a little less time at the sorority houses looking to score.

Brian Johnson
Entertainment Reporter

My experience with "The House Bunny" was like being on a date with a beautiful girl with no insight or brains. You have fun, but at the end of the night you just feel completely stupid.

This latest comedy geared toward the college-aged demographic provides plenty of laughs, most of the time unintentional, and a fair amount of fun, but script and plot problems are evident from the beginning.

Anna Farris ("Scary Movie") plays an orphaned Playboy Bunny who has been kicked out of the Playboy Mansion and now has to find a new calling. That calling? A house mother for a failing sorority whose members are far from traditionally beautiful, at least intentionally made that way by the filmmakers.

Case in point, Emma Stone ("Superbad") and Kat Dennings ("40 Year-Old Virgin") are both beautiful girls and they were served what I like to call the "She's All That" look where they are made to look like nerds by either giving them ponytails or short hair and glasses. It's not convincing and from the moment you see them onscreen, you're telling yourself "I sense a makeover coming where these girls are all of a sudden extremely hot."

Don't get me wrong, I felt that part of the film would be particularly inspiring to young women who don't see themselves



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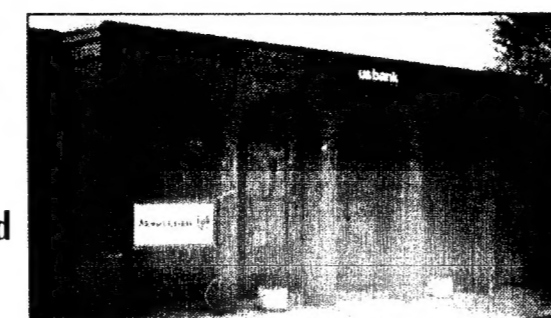
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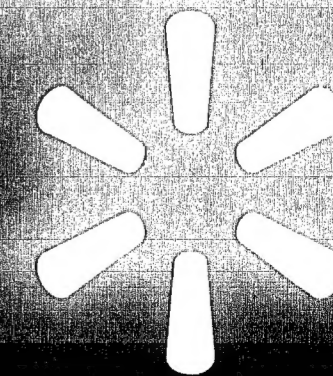
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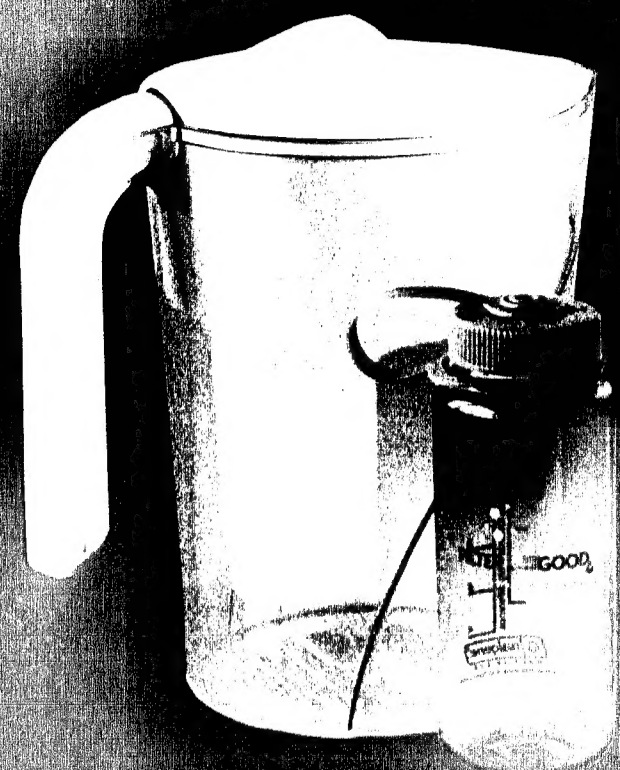
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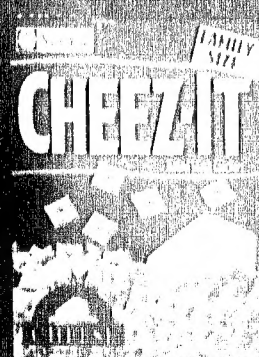
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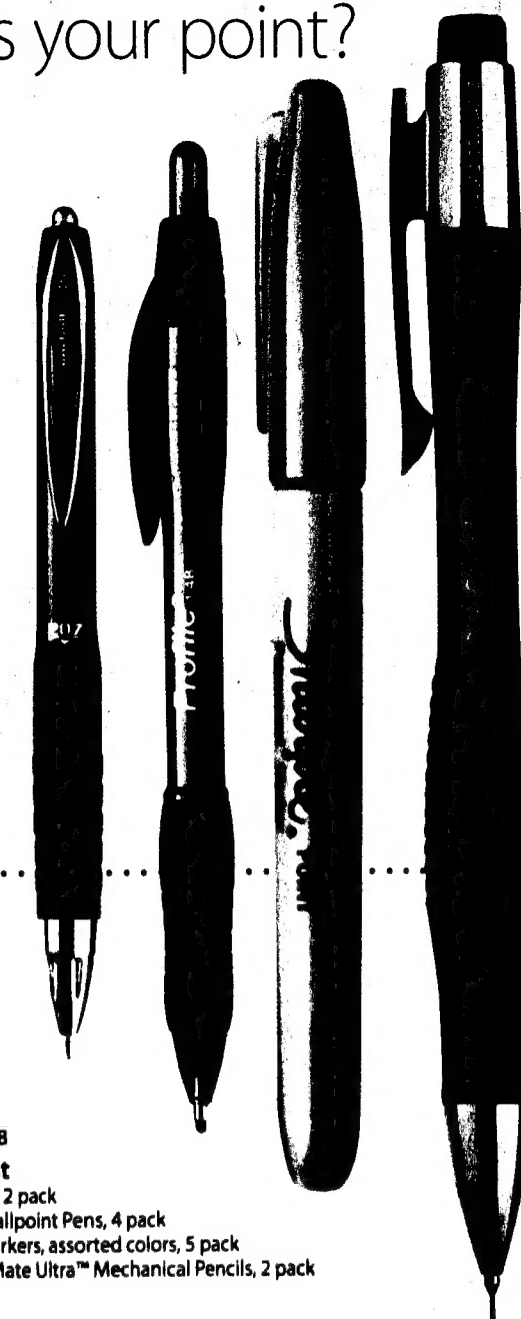
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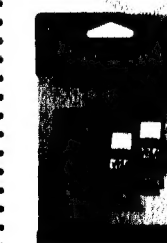
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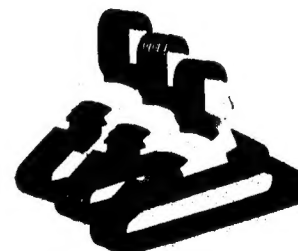
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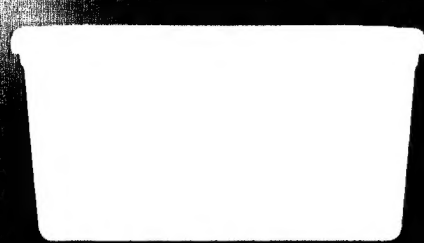


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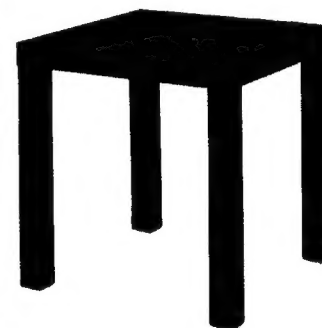
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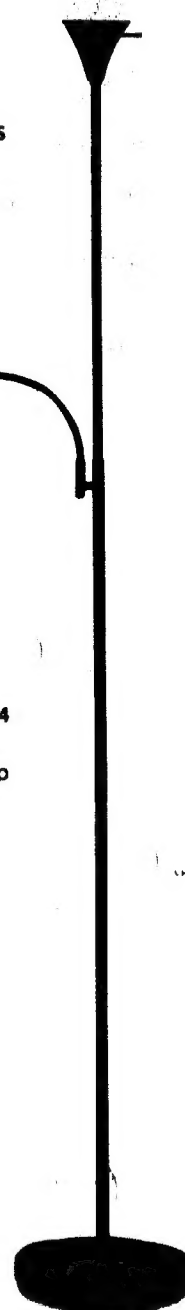
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